PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, December 1, 2010 ** 12 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 356 P18

Metro Manila is '7-11 of disasters'

By Michael Lim Ubac

BUSINESS / B1
Treasury bill rates drop to all-time lows

NEWS / A10
Bacolod NGO wins BBC World Challenge

WORLD / A28
WikiLeaks bares plans for North Korea's fall

ENTERTAINMENT / G2
Celebrity forum: Is social networking a boon or bane?

Lotto winner still has to claim ₱741M

By Christine V. Esguerra and Mike Frialde

THE HUNT is on for the P741-million lotto jackpot winner but he has yet to claim his prize. But it likely to remain anonymous. Bird odds of one in nearly 20 million to go on the right combination of six numbers have even set PCSO...

Despite this, the chief of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), which operates the Grand...

LOTTO A11

PDI reporter fears for life over Tim Yap tweet

By Miko Morales

MY FIRST job as a lottery jackpot winner feels—paranoid, frustrated and taunting.

But in the end, I'm neither P741 million richer, nor is somebody going without, and yet I share the emotional rollercoaster ride.

On Monday night, I filled out my news on the winning combination of the 6/55 Grand Lotto, a much anticipated result because the jackpot was the biggest prize ever in the country's history.

Monitoring the radio, I took note of the numbers and sent them to...

PDI REPORTER, A11

BONIFACIO DAY Wreaths at the Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan City commemorate the 147th birthday of Andres Bonifacio. Founder of the secret society Katipunan, Bonifacio was one of the leading protagonists in the struggle for freedom against Spain.

MARK BALMORES

Pulse: 69% favor RH bill

Biong freed, maintains innocence

By Miko Morales and Marlon Ramos

DRESSED IN WHITE with one hand gripping a Bible, the ex-cop convicted of tampering with evidence in the 1991 "Vizconde massacre" case cried "Thank God!" as prison officials handed him the document ordering his...

BIONG A6

De Lima says Ping here, backs ₱2-M reward for his arrest

By Nikko Dizon and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

JUSTICE SECRETARY Leila de Lima yesterday announced that she had endorsed a proposed P2-million reward to help "hasten" the arrest of fugitive Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson who, she said, was hiding in the country.

DE LIMA A6

THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR US Congressman Stephen J. Solarz is welcomed by President Corazon Aquino in Malacañang in this file photo. Solarz was a staunch supporter of the Filipinos' cause against the Marcos dictatorship. His last visit here in August 2009 was to attend President Cory's funeral.

Solarz, rights champ, Pinoys' BFF, dies at 70

WASHINGTON—Former New York Congressman Stephen J. Solarz, a foreign affairs expert who in 1986 revealed the extravagance of Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos, died on Monday. He was 70.

A staunch campaigner for democracy, he was lost in the Philippines in August 2009 to attend the funeral of democracy icon Corazon Aquino.

Solarz angered many of his fellow Democrats when in 1991 he cosponsored the resolution authorizing President George H. W. Bush to wage the first war against Iraq. A year lat...

SOLARZ, A10

Support for measure up 6 percentage points

By TJ Burgonio and Norman Bordadora

PROPONENTS of the reproductive health (RH) bill yesterday cheered the results of a new Pulse Asia survey showing that 69 percent of Filipinos favored the population management measure, while others scoffed at the survey.

Gabriela Rep. Luzviminda Ilagan, author of a comprehensive RH bill for women, said the latest poll merely reaffirmed the sentiments of the majority of Filipinos about the RH measure.

"The time has come for the passage of the bill. This is the right time to pass it," Ilagan said in an interview by phone.

President Aquino acknowledged that the results of the Pulse Asia survey could be an indication that the people recognized that there were problems that need to be addressed in connection with the huge population.

The President said his stand on reproductive health issues was not dictated by what surveys found.

"I'm not going to base any of my decisions or my mind on what the survey says. But, may I just reiterate, that I have not changed my position," he told reporters in Malacañang.

"It's still called responsible parenthood," he said.

BK Aquino has said that he is in favor of allowing couples to choose what birth control method is appropriate for them. He also said that government should provide these methods to those...

PULSE, A12

Palace to review setup of 3-headed media group

By Norman Bordadora

IT HAS finally hit the Palace that its three-headed communications group must put its act together.

Secretary Ricky Carandang of the Presidential Communications and Strategic Development Office said Cabinet officials would meet on Thursday to discuss ways on how to coordinate more effectively the government's programs.

PALACE A10

TELLING THE FILIPINO STORY TO THE WORLD

Editors' Note: For 25 days, we will be telling stories about the Inquirer to mark the paper's 25th anniversary on Dec. 8, 2010. Some are little inside stories but impacting on how we cover unfolding events; some are mark-the-day stories that become talk-of-the-town types; others are turning point stories that have changed the landscape of history; still others, big or small, seize the heart and never let go.

But whatever, the Inquirer will tell you the story.

25

Little League's big scandal: Cost of righting a wrong

FRONT PAGE President Fidel Ramos congratulates the PH team who beat a US team to win the Little League championship for first time in 1992.

By Antonio T. Enguerra Jr.
News Editor

LONG BEFORE Joseph Estrada tried to test the mettle of the Inquirer and stretch the limits of his presidential powers with a Malacañang-led advertising boycott, the paper's fortitude had already been tested by an international scandal.

The year was 1992. The Philippines' Zamboanga City team had just won the Little League World Series champ...

championship and Filipinos were swept on the crest of national euphoria. The victorious boys from Zamboanga returned to a heroes' welcome, complete with a ticket tape parade on Ayala Avenue, a call on Malacañang and a P1-million check from then President Fidel Ramos.

But when the cheers died down and the confetti settled, the painful truth emerged: Our boys cheated. And the story had to be told.

LITTLE A18

SMART
SMART Money introduces another innovative mobile-to-mobile cash transfer.
NOW
PASAPERA
Powered by SMART Money
Para mag-PASA PERA mula sa SMART Money:
• Pili ng SMART Money at ang Transfer.
• Click OTHERS and input mobile/card number.
Madali • Mabilis • Maraming mapagpadalahan
www.smart.com.ph/money

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

6/29: 10 17 | 15 6 | 2 15
SUPERLOTTO 6/49: 1 1 2 | 8 0 1 | 3 2 2
SIX DIGIT: 5 4 2 8 8 9
4D'S LUZ, VIS, MIN: 3 11 14 15 21 29
P4,237,950.00
SUPERLOTTO 6/49: 18 20 23 24 43 46
P26,556,688.80

Dead or alive? NPA won't say

Ka Roger's death unconfirmed – AFP

By Dona Pazzibugan and Ovidio T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE COMMUNIST New People's Army should put the issue of the rumored death of rebel leader Gregorio Rosal, a.k.a. Ka Roger, to rest.

"They should now confirm or deny Ka Roger's death," said Lt. Gen. Roland Detabali, the chief of the military's Southern Luzon Command (Solcom).

"If they feel that he is still alive (but) come up with evidence to that need and for all we can settle the issue," said Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Jose Mabanta.

Detabali clarified yesterday that reports of Rosal's death was still being verified.

Rumorists

"What we have is raw information and still subject for further validation," he said in a phone interview.

"There is an intelligence report that he required while being transported out of hospital. But we cannot confirm it," he said.

Rosal's death was reported in the media yesterday, quoting Detabali as the source of the information.

Malacañang also got on board, with Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda calling it positive finding yesterday that the military believes Rosal has been dead for the past two years.

Detabali yesterday clarified that what he had confirmed was the military intelligence report that the rebel spokesman has been suffering from a lingering illness.

"Ka Roger has long been sick. We all know that. He badly needs medical treatment and hospital confinement. Now, if his fragile body has finally succumbed, and he is now dead, that we still don't know for fact," Detabali said.

For many years, Rosal was the face of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the NPA, regularly giving media interviews by phone whenever he's hiding.

But he has not made his presence felt in the media for more than a year.

Rosal, who would be in his early '60s by now, was reported by the military to have fallen seriously ill a few years ago.

The military believes he has died from his illness, but has found no evidence of his burial place.

Detabali said that for the past two years all the 30th members, including top-ranking leaders who have surrendered, have "never mentioned Ka Roger."

"The problem is it's hard to locate the body. But later on, it will be known," he said.

The new head of the government peace panel, Alex Padilla, is scheduled to meet today with his communist counterparts, Luis Jalandoni, in Hong Kong.

President Aquino himself has announced the communists that Jalandoni would have no problem if he returns home for the peace talks.

In a chance interview, Mr. Aquino said he has not given any specific instruction to Padilla for his meeting today with Jalandoni, the chief negotiator of the National Democratic Front, the political arm of the CPP.

No pressure

"They know that they have my utmost support. I don't dictate. So I would not pressure them to come up with results just for a good round bite," the President said.

Told that Jalandoni, who lives in exile in the Netherlands, was afraid to return to the country because of pending cases against him, Mr. Aquino said he has "full confidence in Alex (Padilla) that they will be able to encourage any soul here."

Teresita Ditkoff, the presidential adviser on the peace process, said the meeting would have no agenda and no announcements will be issued.

She said the meeting was only to assist the Padilla and Jalandoni to get to know each other.

"It's a very first step to a good foundation for the talks," Ditkoff said.

As for Jalandoni's fears of returning home, Ditkoff said, "We still constantly never make it an issue. He will always be welcome here."

With the kidnappings of Rosal since the middle of 2006, several military reports claimed that he may have succumbed to a lingering illness.

Disciplinary action

Other intelligence reports claimed that Rosal may have been under some sort of "disciplinary action" imposed by higher party officials.

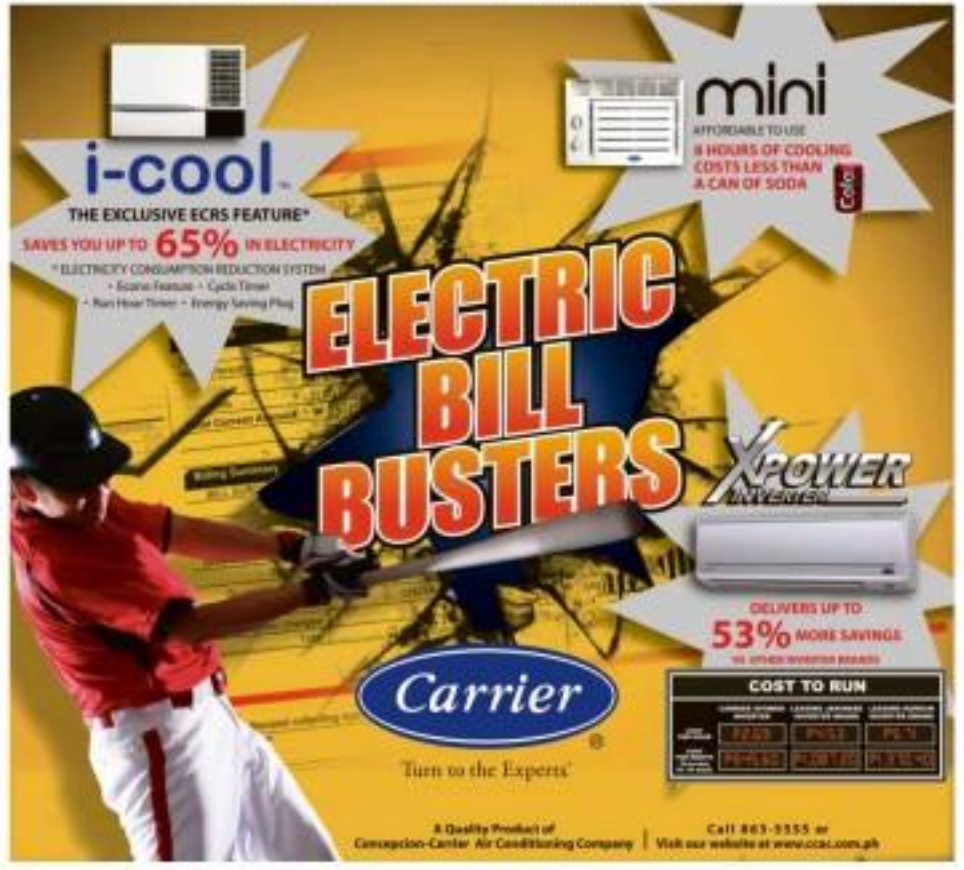
In October 2008, Rosal came out with a press statement claiming that he escaped confrontation with the media in a personal security measure after he found out that the military had been shooting and deadly encountering his mobile phones.

Detabali said if Rosal is still alive and needs hospitalization, the military is offering him a safe conduct pass for his medical treatment.

"He is now old and visibly he should now take a rest. Obviously it must end his family has long been wanting for him," he said.

The impasse has tried to counter Mano Militante, the CPP media relations officer, but still had not gotten a reply at press time. With Christine O. Avendaño

ROSAL: Dead or just out of the loop?



LIVING WITH GRIEF

Massacre victims' kin suffer trauma

By Cynthia D. Balana

SOME THREE members of the 58 victims of the Maguindanao massacre have manifested psychiatric symptoms as a result of unresolved grief and the government's lack of support for their psychosocial processing, a psychiatrist revealed yesterday.

"We're talking of a mass trauma which makes it very unique in a sense that we're not just dealing with one or two victims but 58 victims' other families, in this province in the Philippines' region of necessity," said Dr. Hazel Decenteo of the University of the Philippines Philippine General Hospital and the Philippine Psychiatric Association of the Philippines.

Psychosocial care

Her group, led by another psychiatrist Dr. Jose Lopez, initially provided psychosocial care to the families until it was stopped six months ago for several reasons.

Decenteo said the families discovered to receive continuous psychosocial care in some of them had been manifesting psychiatric symptoms not limited to PTSD.

She said the grieving process for people who had lost their loved ones as sudden as the Maguindanao massacre experience was entirely different than those whose loved ones died of natural causes.

"Because some of our members in the families who are accepting it well but there are some who are withdrawn," she told the Philippine College of Physicians' Health Forum on "Living with Grief," which tackled the grief healing experienced by the families of the Maguindanao massacre and desaparecidos.

"You see different reactions from different family members and these reactions are influenced by coping styles." One encouraging sign that some of the family members had overcome the tragedy was their active involvement in court hearings and in advocacy that will make their voices heard. For those who are still in the grieving process, however, they were still mourning and in depressed state, she said.

Post-traumatic stress

There were times, she said, when a family member of one of the victims who checked ready recovered returned to the grieving state again after seeing the gory images of the victims in court hearings.

Decenteo said that post-traumatic stress would usually manifest several years later, even after 10 years.

She admitted that it would take time for these people to heal completely.

Stella Sevilla, co-chair of the Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance, a non-governmental organization in special consultation with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, said the unabated commission of enforced disappearances under the current administration kept off wounds fresh and brought painful emotions of harrowing experiences in the minds of the families.

"If families of those who have been long missing try to find solace in such troubled thoughts, families of events and not to recount victims continually operate between the hope of finding the disappeared and despair that the disappearance may be prolonged in eternity is accompanied by severe trauma and eventually end up in extinguished killing," Sevilla told the court for one.

She said that coping mechanisms of families vary. Those with unresolved grief exhibited post-traumatic manifestations... prolonged inability to accept the disappearance of the loved ones; continuous yearning for the missing; persistent flashbacks; recurrent nightmares; persistent nervousness; recurrent feeling that the disappeared is always present; and searching the family; guilt over acts and statements concerning the disappeared; and extreme anger, sadness, depression or anxiety.

As such, psychosocial interventions program must be renewed and planned within a given social, cultural and political context; and must address emotional issues regarding both restorative and retributive justice, reconciliation and reparations, and rehabilitation and national security, among others.

Commissioner Lascy Nazer Reyes, who represents the families of 32 massacre victims, said the state must address specific rights of victims as recognized under international law which included the right to reparation, not just compensation.

Reyes pointed out that the accused—members of the notorious clan in Maguindanao—were a state organ, being elected officials. As such, the state incurred international responsibility.

DSWD to spend ₱4B to give away ₱21B to the poor

By Cl Calmorgan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Social Welfare and Development is spending ₱4 billion to turn 4,000 workers next year to implement its controversial ₱21-billion conditional cash transfer program, a move resisted at the finance deliberations on the budget for the agency yesterday.

This has spurred the senators to further question the reliability of the Aquino administration's decision to double the budget he took over from its predecessor, ostensibly for the previous administration and transfer by supervision from the education and health departments to a non-bureaucratized agency like the DSWD.

Sen. Franklin Drilon, chair of the Senate finance committee, revealed that the DSWD would channel to the 4,000 employees allocated to double the CCT budget for its administration expenses, leaving only ₱17 billion for the actual cash grants.

Senate President Jinggoy Estrada said, Palpalagay ko, nanood sa mga [I think, I watched] with surprise that the process of handing out the cash grants would cost more than the value of the benefits.

Review committee would have been better if the government had used the existing manpower of the different government agencies and local governmental units in implementing the CCT rather than hire more employees that would further add to the bloated bureaucracy.

He doubted that even if the DSWD were to double its staff, it would have an capability to monitor the 2.3 million targeted beneficiaries of the CCT.

He said the amount allocated for the DSWD's CCT was too big especially when these were other items that require funding such as education and agriculture.

Estrada questioned the scope of the CCT program, especially since some of the poorest Filipinos lived in coastal areas far from urban centers and the reach of the Land Bank automobile.

The DSWD plans to distribute the money through ATM cards.

If the main objective (when still in) Manila, then it has to be modified in some areas, she suggested. I wanted to see whether they conducted a survey of poor areas. I also wanted to know how they would counteract with the urban delivery of the amounts, said Estrada.

Sen. Francis Escudero doubted that the DSWD has been able to pinpoint all the beneficiaries of the CCT.

Are we still in the first stage of identifying who are the country's poorest of the poor and are we just going to the second step of identifying who are qualified to receive the CCT? asked Escudero.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, November 1, 2010
1st Week of Advent

(cf Reading: Is 25:6-10a)
Gospel: Mt 15:29-37

Jesus went to the shore of Lake Galilee, and then went up into the hills where he sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing the dumb, the blind, the lame, the crippled, and many with other infirmities. The people carried them to the feet of Jesus, and he healed them. All were astonished when they saw the dumb speaking, the lame walking, the crippled healed and the blind able to see; so they glorified the God of Israel. Jesus called his disciples and said to them, "I am filled with compassion for these people: they have already followed me for three days and now have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away fasting, or they may faint on the way." His disciples said to him, "But where shall we find enough bread in the wilderness to feed such a crowd?" Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" They answered, "Seven, and a few small fish." So he told the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and the small fish and, after thanking God, he broke them and gave them to his disciples, who distributed them to the people.

They all ate and were satisfied, and the leftovers broken pieces filled seven wicker baskets.

Commentary:

"Then they will rest and find enough."

He has given everything we need in him.

Look for our spirit as well as for our bodies.

It is up to us to harvest the treasures waiting for both.

Our part of the promise requires us to labor for our food

and to sell the spirit by contemplation and good works.

Then nothing, either physical or spiritual, will deprive us.

Homily: www.catholic.net/rcc, Fr. P. Mateos, St. Of Hope, Bolivia, Spain. Tel. (34) 954 4 Fillman, Ltd. Quezon City. Tel. No. (02) 441-2100. Fax No. (02) 924-4668. E-mail: info@pcn.org. Website: http://www.pcn.org. Editor-in-Chief: Fr. Rolando J. Dela Cruz. Copyright © 2010 Pauline Communications Philippines.

De Lima poorest, Domingo richest in Aquino Cabinet

By Ed Cabuenagan

JUSTICE SECRETARY Leila de Lima may be the highest ranked among President Aquino's Cabinet but she is a pauper compared to her peers. Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory Domingo is the richest.

In her statement of assets, liabilities and net worth submitted to the Commission on Appointments, De Lima reported a fortune of P3.3 million as of June this year, the lowest among nine Cabinet members who submitted their documents to the Senate body.

In the September survey of the Social Weather Stations, De Lima had a net satisfaction rating of plus 59 percent, the highest among 12 preselected Aquino Cabinet members.

Topping the list was Domingo with a net worth of P138.9 million, followed by Energy Secretary Jose Rotorduna with P116.3 million; Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala, P87.1 million; Health Secretary Enrique Ona, P76.7 million; Science and Technology Secretary Mario Montejo, P61.1 million; Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim, P46.9 million; Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, P23.5 million, and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, P19 million.

The ranking of the Cabinet's richest can still change with the submission of the SALN of Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo.

The richest in the Arroyo administration was then Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro with a net worth of P222.4 million while the poorest was his successor when he ran for president, Norberto Gonzales, with P5.3 million.

Corrections

IN THE NOV 14 ISSUE, a story on Page 14—"Clinton's population growth idea nonsense, says Cagayan"—misstated the date when former US President Bill Clinton delivered a speech at the Manila Hotel. Clinton talked about the "challenge of globalization" at the Manila Hotel on Nov. 10— not Nov. 11.

* * *

IN THE NOV 21 ISSUE, the caption of a photo accompanying a Global Pinoy story on Page A25—"Making waves in the Caribbean"—misspelled the name of an award-winning film and stage actress. The actress' name is Gigi Dominino—not Dominai.

* * *

IN THE NOV 22 ISSUE, an Across the Nation story on Page A14—"Senator's case not isolated, says health group"—misstated the place where Dr. Juan "Johnny" Escandor was killed. Escandor was killed in Quezon City—not Bicol.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a Business story on Page B15—"BSP awards upgrade in Moody's outlook on ON"—inadvertently omitted the first name of BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

* * *

IN THE NOV 25 ISSUE, Comrade de Quiroz' "There's De Rub" column on Page A10 of the Opinion section—"Sicsic bloodbath"—misspelled the surname of a film director. The director's name is Ishi Lilibet—not Liberat.

* * *

IN THE NOV 26 ISSUE, the banner story on the Second Front Page—"Media Mission 'Accomplished'"—misspelled the surname of a Commission on Elections official. The commissioner's name is Gregorio Larrazabal—not Lazibabal.

* * *

IN THE NOV. 28 ISSUE, the front-page banner story—"AFP seeks return of all rebs"—carried the erroneous para graph: "The military recruits a total of 179 military personnel involved in three uprisings in 2003, 2007 and 2009." It should have read: "The military recruits a total of 170 military personnel involved in three uprisings in 2003, 2006 and 2007."

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a story on Page A3—"P-Noy marks dad's birthday with Mass"—misstated the lawful date when Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. returned to the Philippines from the United States. Aquino came back on Aug. 21, 1983—not Aug. 23, 1983.

* * *

IN THE NOV 30 ISSUE, a front page story—"Both sides vow: Senate's 'Lazarus,' 'Great Mouse'"—misstated that Juan Ponce Enrile was a lone opposition senator in 1987. Opposition candidate Joseph Estrada also won a Senate seat in the 1987 elections.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Inquirer, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PMI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Rockwell Drive, Makati City, Fax Nos. 897-8710-99, e-mail address: dyanabe@inquirer.com.ph or Jun Aca 897-87-93, Ms. Aida Ilo-Abellana 896-phone number 1-897-8000 local 3307.

Biong freed, maintains innocence

From page A1

FORMER policeman Gerardo Biong and his wife Jocelyn walk out of the Hoa Binh Prison in Muntinlupa City on Tuesday.

strongest women any man could ever meet."

Shortly before Biong left his prison cell, Jason Tiozzon, who lost his wife and two daughters to the grisly rape-slay case, asked Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to recall her release order.

Tiozzon was accompanied by officials of the Volunteers against Crime and Corruption (VACC) when he went to the Department of Justice office in Manila to deliver a letter of appeal to De Lima to prevent Biong's release.

Is it coincidence?

The relatives questioned the timing of Biong's discharge, noting that it came just when the Supreme Court was to make a ruling next on its version of the constitution of Robert Welsh and other principals accused in the case.

"Was it really just a coincidence? I think there has to be a justification for Biong's release," Visconde told reporters. "We are asking the Justice secretary to review her final (approval) for Biong's freedom. We want to know how his jail term was computed."

But De Lima said Biong's release was "in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations."

"Right now, there is no basis to hold him further unless an appropriate court would tell us not to (release him)," she said at a news briefing.

De Lima said records from the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) showed that Biong had completed his 12-year jail term.

"I have no concrete list to approve the release," she said. "I have no discretion whatsoever to extend the stay of any inmate if the records show that his sentence has expired."

Snappy salute

The couple smiled widely when they faced each other at the maximum security compound, where Biong went through the paperpushing and other processes while awaiting the release order that a human official delivered from the justice department.

Biong gave BuCor Director Ernesto Diokno a snappy salute as the latter handed him the release order that De Lima signed on Friday. He folded the document and inserted it among the pages of the Bible he was holding.

The order was apparently forwarded to the Justice department's records section for proper labeling and verification only yesterday because Bilibid was closed on Monday, Wednesday and declared Monday a holiday according to Diokno.

Asked in the day and quoting a Supreme Court ruling, Diokno told reporters that Biong could not be held "a minute longer" with the transmission of the release order to the BuCor officials.

He shrugged off claims that Biong was being accorded special treatment, stating the inmate's records showed that the prisoner had served the maximum sentence for an attempted homicide.

Diokno also denied claims that Biong still had other cases that required him to spend more time behind bars.

"Our records show that he was brought here for the crime in connection with the Visconde massacre," Diokno said.

Visconde lamented that he had not been informed of Biong's impending release, which he said had heightened his fears for his life.

He said Biong should not be allowed to leave prison in the latter had previously been sentenced to a four-year jail term for a failed slay attempt on Benita Gandia.

Capable was among the five set of people arrested by the police for the killings, but was later ordered released.

"Biong is supposed to be in jail for 10 years, not just 12 years," Visconde said.

SC acquittal

But a shock made by the Supreme showed that Biong was acquitted by the Supreme Court of the killed-due attempt on Aug 29, 2006.

VACC founding chair and president Danes Serrano described Biong's release as "very disturbing and alarming."

"In the interest of transparency and justice, we respectfully request that the order for immediately recalled and the release of Mr. Biong be held in abeyance," Serrano said in the VACC letter.

But Biong's lawyer, Ricardo Rillanes, said his client should be freed at once.

Speaking with reporters after meeting with De Lima, Valenzuela said Biong was first arrested in 1995 and had been in prison for 15 years already.

"If the (BuCor) insists on holding Biong, we may file a case of arbitrary detention against them," the lawyer said.

De Lima said her role in Biong's release was purely ministerial in nature and ministerial.

"It's just a matter of course," she said, adding that she approved Biong's release on Nov. 26, two days after he had completed served his sentences.

She said Biong was freed along with 320 other inmates in ceremonies held by Diokno.

Citing Biong's prison records, De Lima said the ex-cop was first arrested on Sept. 5, 1995, but was freed on Dec. 4, 1997, after posting bail.

He was again arrested and brought to the national penitentiary on Jan. 7, 2000, when then Paranaque Judge Amelita Tolentino sentenced him to a prison term of four-four years and two months in one year and six months as an accessory to the crime.

Then the investigator of the massacre case, Biong was found guilty of tampering with evidence recovered from the crime scene.

De Lima said Biong's pending appeal with the Supreme Court was already "moot and academic" because he had completed his jail term.

"The Supreme Court ruling, for me, would be irrelevant as to the issue on whether his confinement needs to continue because as a matter of law, and as a matter of course, he is now entitled to be released," De Lima said.

"What is the point of that (ruling)? To clear his name? He has served the sentence, anyway," she said.

Tarring paint

Biong expressed gratitude to Justice officials who saw him off, and tried to see the silver lining in a dark chapter in his life.

"I guess this was the way God showed how He loves me," he said.

Posing together his life behind bars, Biong told the Inquirer that he dreamt about a couple of men—"friends," he said...leading him off somewhere.

As he reached the destination, he said, he felt great happiness in his eyes.

"I felt that they were going to betray me, to frame me off," he said.

Asked if she had anything to do with the Visconde massacre, Biong said he was not sure. But he expressed certainty that the massacre was a turning point in his faith.

He went so to say that he began to attend Bible studies and that he had found peace in the Jesus Miracle Crusade.

He said he held no grudge against the people responsible for his imprisonment and who had framed him.

He also said he had picked the color white as "a sign of purity."

At a press conference in Quezon City, Biong broke into tears while expressing gratitude to Valenzuela and his other lawyer, Jose Flaminiano.

"I never give you anything in return," he said. He added that he had not changed much while in prison: "Pinahaguran lang ang kabutihan ko (I just gained more goodness)."

Good behavior

Teodoro Diaz, BuCor assistant director for administration, said Biong had completed his prison term with the help of the good conduct time allowance (GCTA), which he earned for exemplary behavior.

Citing pertinent laws, Diaz said prisoners locked up for more than ten years were given five days worth of GCTA in a month for the duration.

GCTA credit increase as a prisoner spends more time in the national penitentiary and it is the sole prerogative of the Bu Con director to give these bonuses, she said.

The GCTA given to prisoners are also subject to an automatic review by the Justice Department, Diaz said.

MANILA MEMOS

DFA: Too early to tell what's in WikiLeaks

By DJ Yap

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said it was too early to tell what effect the leaked memos from the US Embassy in Manila would have on relations with the United States once these are published by the online website, WikiLeaks.

"The best one-sentence is that there would be nothing in there that we do not know about, as of the moment," said DFA spokesperson Edwardo Malaya.

As of Tuesday, the WikiLeaks website had not posted any of the Manila documents totalling 1,390 memos, from a cache of 251,287 cables emanating from 274 embassies that WikiLeaks started publishing on Sunday.

Of the Manila memos, 962 were unclassified, 709 were confidential and 93 were secret, based on a graph in the website that categorized the documents by origin.

"It's too early to tell what the papers would be. We haven't seen the contents of these alleged documents," Malaya said in an interview.

Monitoring developments

He said the DFA was closely monitoring the developments and was communicating with the US Embassy about the leaks, although he would not reveal the nature of the talks.

Rebecca Thompson, the US Embassy spokesperson, said in a text message: "As a matter of policy, we don't comment on documents that purport to contain classified information."

Its Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton said, "I am confident that the partnerships that the Obama administration has worked so hard to build will withstand this challenge."

Even though the US Embassy communications did not event his five-month-old administration, President Aquino yesterday said the security breach was alarming.

"We change in location of information God as somebody said, a little knowledge is dangerous," Ms. Aquino told reporters.

The President said there could be dangers that the information in these communications from would not be understood properly.

Too early to comment

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said that the Palace has yet to see the leaked Manila communications and that it would be too early to comment.

"But certainly the leak of the documents affects the privacy of communications and communication and it affects as that information that are highly sensitive will be disclosed to the public," Lacierda said yesterday.

Malaya called on media organizations to be responsible when releasing the Philippine-related documents once these become available on the WikiLeaks website. He said there were no point in asking for pieces of unlabeled information.

"It is my understanding that advance copies have already been released, and there are out already in the open. It's a matter of the timing of the release. As a country, we do not subscribe to censorship," he said.

He said if any embarrassment should result from the release of the classified cables, it would be "because the real of the American."

"There is the ones that made these reports. They're the ones that made their assessments and recommendations. It's purely internal. It's their own report to their another agency," Malaya said.

In a separate interview with TV reporters, Malaya said "these disclosures have caused discomfort among our American diplomatic colleagues."

"It surprises everyone that this took place despite the security precautions in place, which obviously ought to be strengthened," he said.

But Malaya said the act of sending diplomatic reports was nothing new and only to be expected.

"Diplomatic work is not just entertaining cocktails and chatting and relax. Mr ambassador often receives consultations, negotiations on various issues," he said.

He said that in the Philippines, "we have three pillars of foreign policy, the third of which is maintaining nationals, the second is economic diplomacy. The first is security diplomacy. And that is how our American colleagues have been discharging their security diplomacy."

Malaya said the DFA consults with the US Embassy "in the same way we consult with other embassies."

"There, of course, is that expectation that when these diplomatic exchanges take place, the contents of such exchanges will be safeguarded," he said.

He said the disclosure of sensitive classified information is against the law in the US and in the Philippines. **With Christine Avendaño**

ATTENTION
Business Advertisers
Publish a picture of your
if yare for sale
if products for sale
if house for sale
if apartment for rent
CLASSIFIEDS

VINCENT MARK MEDICO
Cavite Trading
Cavite Trading
Glucose, Cholesterol, Uric Acid Multi Meter
www.farenainnet.net

Still Deadly
EXPECT THE OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE
HERCS

Digital World
VIVO FULL HD LCD/LED TV
Truly a Smart Choice

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region III – A CALABARZON
DIVISION OF ANTIPOLO CITY
DepED
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY TO BID

DESCRIPTION	Quantity	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1. Tabled Armchair (All Vision Elementary & Secondary)	2,130 pieces	Php 2,132,000.00
2. Teacher Table and Chair	22 sets	000,000.00
3. Science Laboratory Table and Stools	8 sets	27,000.00
4. Library Table and Chairs	36 sets	27,000.00
	TOTAL ABC	Php 2,416,000.00

Activity	Date	Venue
1. Pre-Bid Conference	December 1, 2010	Division Office Conference Room (10:00 AM) (2F Garcia Type Bldg., DepED Complex)
2. Deadline of Submission of Bids	December 10, 2010	Division Office Conference Room (10:00 AM) (2F Garcia Type Bldg., DepED Complex)
3. Opening of Bids	December 10, 2010	Division Office Conference Room (2F Garcia Type Bldg., DepED Complex)

Nikon
COOLPIX
Capture more
Feel more
Intense feelings and emotions in every shot.
SAMPLE

LACSON: Is none and no longer

DE LIMA: To receive or not

De Lima says Ping here

From page A1

Speaking at her weekly press conference at the Justice department in Manila, De Lima said the PNoy-Ebdane summit had been proposed by "a unit of the Philippine Retirement Police." Ebdane was "instructing" it, and that the recommendation was awaiting the green light from Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo.

She said Robredo had to approve the proposal because the process was to route from the Department of Interior and Local Government through it.

According to De Lima, the summit announced involvement in the 2000 Oscar Corbito murders is in the country and the National Bureau of Investigation had pinpointed the area where he is hiding.

"There has been a continuous monitoring of that area since last week," she said.

Lacson was said to have fled overseas in January before a Manila trial court judge issued a warrant for his arrest in connection with the abduction and killing of politician Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito.

The arrest warrant was issued during the administration of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, now a representative of Pampanga's second district.

Lacson had claimed persecution by the past administration because of his series of exposés on the alleged corruption of Arroyo and her family.

Counterproductive

Sen. Gregorio Honasan said the proposed P2-million reward leading to Lacson's arrest or surrender would alarm sure-enemies into the hunt for the fugitive lawmaker and could endanger his life.

"This move is counterproductive because we stand for due process," said Honasan, a classmate of Lacson at the Philippine Military Academy.

Honasan is no stranger to the bounty system, with a P5-million reward on his head while recalling an arrest warrant for involvement in coup attempts against the Corazon Aquino administration.

"As soon as you put up the reward, you appeal to the mercenaries in the country leaders who can not motivated by due process but by a purely monetary consideration," he said.

Honasan said that while the proposed bounty was a "judgment call" on De Lima's part, it showed that the justice department had no idea where Lacson was, contrary to its claim.

"The only thing lacking is a dead or alive slogan. His life is in danger," Honasan added.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said he respected De Lima's position, and it was her department's prerogative "to put a price on the head of anybody wanted by the law."

Test case

Enrile said he had no contact with Lacson since the latter disappeared.

While the Senate has scrapped the budget allocation for Lacson's office, he will shop being a senator only "when he is convicted, if he will be convicted," Enrile said.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago said the justice department should treat Lacson like any ordinary fugitive.

"I don't know how we will find a compromise. He cannot continue to be a fugitive because the justice department will be threatened," Cayetano said.

His only fear is that no one was "tired of the all-powerful's political will — my fear is [with someone not only protected as a] public but also with a high government position."

Closure

De Lima said she had met with MB Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and told him she was giving "the elite [lawyer] team a few days to wrap up how would"—a reference to Lacson's arrest.

"I want closure to this operation," De Lima said.

She also said Lacson should present himself in order to avoid such symptoms as being handcuffed despite his "clout" as a senator.

De Lima earlier said that not pushing handcuffs on Lacson would be Undersecretary according him special treatment. But yesterday, she said handcuffs could be done away with if he surrendered.

"Parte-nemo-pro-ongo-ex [What can be agreed on]," she said when asked if Lacson and not be handcuffed.

De Lima noted that with only a few weeks before Christmas, pending work such as the implementation of arrest warrants should be resolved.

"To me, the situation has become untenable. What will be my explanation to the public? [not] have [Ebdane] resolved, we cannot even execute the implementation of the warrant of arrest?" De Lima said.

She added that Lacson would be warned of all his rights upon his arrest.

DOUBLE UP CHANCES!

Reward yourself with an early Christmas present with the country's first and only Sport Utility Truck Nissan Navara. Drive home the fastest 4x2 pickup for an incredibly low down payment of P142,000 only.

You can even double your chances of winning an Apple iPhone 4G and other exciting prizes when you buy your Navara on the month of November.

What are you waiting for? Make your wishes come true now! See promo flyers for details.

Leila not keen on Comelec job

By Marlon Ramos

SEPTEMBER is the expert on election law, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday said she was not interested to become the next chair of the Commission on Elections, preferring to remain in her present job.

"I just got here a few months ago. Why am I thinking so soon my exit?" De Lima said in jest.

There have been speculations that the tough-talking De Lima would succeed outgoing Comelec Chair Jose Melo, who last week announced that he would be resigning effective January 2011.

Although she was more familiar with election laws, De Lima said she was inclined to continue her work at the DOJ.

"If I go to other Comelec, I may no longer have an easily workable job since that is my area of expertise. In fact, that issue even came to me in the past. But I hope there are still a good batch," she said.

Since she was given the justice portfolio by President Aquino last June, De Lima immediately buckled down to work, filing criminal cases left and right.

De Lima also headed the investigation into the Aug. 23 hostage-taking fiasco, which caused the country and the Aquino administration to suffer international ridicule.

Recently, she assigned the influential Alpha Phi Omega (APO) fraternity after she announced that its members were behind three separate bombing incidents in three universities in Metro Manila, including the Sept. 26 bar-counter blast.

Move up, live life

at Grand Riviera Suites

Meldex Realty Inc., one of the country's residential developers, once again cultivates more than 1,000 sqm of property along Roxas Boulevard. On the said land will rise the Grand Riviera Suites, a 55 storey residential condominium that commands a view of the scenic golden sunset of Manila Bay. It is the 4th vertical venture by Meldex and will significantly extend standards of the current industry just like it has done before. Evoke yourself to a world of luxury and dreams, and attain the opportunity to elevate your lifestyle to move up and live life the way you've always wanted to.

The Grand Riviera Suites will have a total of 1,016 units. Studio units ranging from 19-21 sqm, one-bedroom units ranging from 31-43 sqm, two-bedroom units ranging from 49-64 sqm and three-bedroom units at 84 sqm all of which are substantially spacious compared to your average normal residential condominium.

Be one of the select few to own a piece of the Manila skyline as the Grand Riviera Suites towers over Roxas Boulevard. Gain access to the privilege of viewing the best of Manila Bay. Moreover, it's perfect location makes it accessible to Intramuros, CCP, US Embassy, Rizal Park and Manila Doctors Hospital.

It would be surprising to see most of the units remain available for long because the quality portrayed, surpasses those offered by the current industry. If you are interested and want to inquire, please call 890-8999 or 891-8671.

Bacolod NGO wins BBC World Challenge

By Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—A Bacolod nongovernment organization has won the top prize at the BBC World Challenge 2010 for its pavilion model of a hydraulic ram pump that has brought water to remote villages in the Philippines and other parts of the world.

The Alternative Indigenous Development Foundation Inc. (AIDFI) based in Barangay Mandalagan, Bacolod City, won the top prize of $20,000, according to Akrid Stuart, a British national based in Bacolod City.

Stuart, who makes television documentaries, sent in an e-mail yesterday that she attended the awarding ceremonies held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, on Monday.

Nadie Idanan of AIDFI won the whole thing out of 800 projects worldwide. It got down to 50, then 12, then the final three," Stuart said.

The entry it was from came in second and Guatemala was third place.

Idanan, the AIDFI chief executive officer, was in Amsterdam and has yet to issue a statement on AIDFI's BBC World Challenge victory.

According to the BBC World Challenge website (http://www.thenewchallenge.co.uk/timeline.php), the awards ceremony will be broadcast on Dec. 4 on the BBC World News and announced on the website on the same day.

Now in its sixth year, the BBC World Challenge is a global competition aimed at finding projects or small businesses from around the world that have strong entrepreneurial innovation at grassroots level.

On Nov. 26, AIDFI's entry "Raising Water Uphill" also won the Community Architecture Award of the Energy Institute Awards held in London.

The AIDFI program centers around the locally perfected model of the old hydraulic ram pump, a device that can pump water to very high elevations without the use of electricity or fuel.

AIDFI has so far installed 175 ram pumps for about 30,000 beneficiaries, Idanan said earlier.

0%

INTEREST

6 Months Installment

*on a P5,000 minimum purchase on any item

Promo runs from October 01 to December 31, 2010

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5432, Series of 2010

*Subject to bank approval. Valid only if monthly bills are paid in full.

SM

DEPARTMENT STORE

"WHEN IN DOUBT, RELOCATE"

Korean crisis: This is a job for Joe de V

Light a Life Christmas Tree launched today

Present commissioners less likely to be named Comelec chief

Absent immigration officer punished for removing $10,000

Globalcell, Gizel and other gazes launched Dec. 4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Let CCT work

A CONSENSUS has emerged among economists that the conditional cash transfer (CCT) program of President Aquino should be given a chance to work, just as it did during the administration of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. In Brazil, for example, several local governments have already received their CCT through the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and their relief is palpable. In Albay, the fiscal will surpass the families of 45,000 school children who are not in school, and this will enable the province to achieve 100 percent participation rate in schooling, one of the education targets of the UN Millennium Development Goals. Together with other development programs, the overall impact of the CCT is a reduction of hunger and malnutrition and the poverty rate, and a boost to the local economic base. The multiplier effect cannot be guessed.

EDITORIAL

Critics say that the program is tantamount to a dole and may foster dependency. They seem unaware of the fact that congressional budget hearings in fact retrogress into nothing more than horse-trading for districts to get their share of the budget pie, often as a means to add to lawmaker's pork barrel which is often distributed as dole and political patronage. Moreover, congressional insertions love-made executive departments, particularly line agencies dealing with public infrastructure and social services, a party to congressional toleration and even corruption.

Other critics would like the P21 billion proposed appropriation for the CCT spread out among the different executive agencies that have their respective poverty amelioratory programs. But this would merely increase the budgets of the various line agencies without really making a dent on poverty. By channeling the funds through the DSWD, an effect ensuring the funds through direct social welfare programs, the program makes an immediate impact on the essential needs of the poor: food, clothing and livelihood support.

But why not alleviate the food situation and the hunger of the people by continuing to subsidize of the National Food Authority? The reason is simple: the NFA is in arrears to the tune of P3.77 billion mainly because it has historically mismanaged the food situation, such as by the purchase of rice in excess of the country needs in a panic reaction to crisis. This is an example of how the bureaucracy, despite its arsenals of ukelaws, makes matters worse for the poor.

Another instance of how the bureaucracy botches things up is shelter. Shelter needs are being taken care of by several agencies, but the recent sale of the near-regarding social housing has not been very positive. Instead of directly assisting the urban poor on their housing needs, the Pag-ibig Fund, for instance, has given multibillion support to the big-ticket condominium development of Globe Asiatique, an example of how social welfare and social security, by mismanagement and corruption, have been used for big business, not for the poor. This is why direct assistance to the poor is wiser and more practical.

The direct assistance of course may slide into nothing more than doles and patronage if it does not go directly to the beneficiaries—if it is diverted, for instance, to local governments that often wait for monies from the central government in order to obscure the fact that there's little or no development in the countryside. Autonomy has afforded local governments the right to their income, which is well and good. But old habits die hard, and local governments remain dependent on the national government for big-impact projects or jumpstart the local economy. Most of the time, local executives depend on the central government for everything: they don't have the vision and the political will to reform their planning and put up industries in their localities. They themselves are enthusiastic users of dependency and even beneficiary.

Therefore, it is very important for local governments not only to assist in monitoring CCT disbursements and alterations, they should also team up with counterpart programs and financing to make poverty amelioration more effective. In Albay, for example, the provincial council has passed its own version of the CCT through a resolution that seeks to limit the size of the P72 million budgeted subsidy for educational support. In the end, what will make the CCT work is not the size of the subsidy, but how effectively and creatively it is used. Let the national and local governments come together to ensure that.

Publisher Isaac Rivera
Editor in Chief Letty Jimena Magsanoc
Managing Editor Lisa Ito R. Salazar
Associate Editor Abraham S. Iglesias
Associate Editor for Radio-Video Rosario R. Garcellano
Opinion Editor Juan V. Sison
Deputy Editor Antonio T. Sandoval Jr. • Chief, Page One Operations Hazel Pilapil
Chief News Desk Cielo R. Alcantara
Supervising Photographer Pio Domingo Jr.
Senior Staff Editor Jane P. Sandoval Jr.
Editorial Consultant Antonio Zumel
Chief Photographer Raul E. Zamudio
Art & Design Director Lorie F. A. Villaroel

Board Chairman Hans R. Pestle
President Alejandro Pesto-Roman III
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Teresita C. Ramos
Vice President for Advertising Hazel R. Olarte
Vice President for Info Tech and Production Gary G. Lim
Vice President for Finance Joel M. Villaseca
AVP for Circulation Manolo Andres R. Gonzalez IV
Corporate Affairs Manager Corina R. Kalaw-Ong

Bill seeks to curb GOCC abuses

THE SCANDALOUS excessive bonuses and allowances and other abuses of officials of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs) must be a thing of the past if Senate Bill 2596, filed by Sen. Franklin Drilon, chair of the Senate finance committee, is passed into law. Sen. Drilon expects it to be passed in Congress, or at least by the Senate, by the first quarter of next year. He doesn't see any opposition to it from other legislators because it is meant to correct the malpractices that has shocked everybody, showcased in reports on GOCCs, officials, now receiving obscenely excessive compensations that they want to continue, to thwart a clandestine lobby against the bill, or at least to water it down. That is why he is asking his fellow legislators to immediately reject lobbying attempts against it.

The bill, titled "The GOCC Governance Act of 2010," creates a governing council for GOCCs. There are 157 GOCCs right now, all of them considering themselves as independent to public that can fix their own compensation packages without any limit and without regard to ethics, good manners, public service and the taxpayers.

Under the bill, Congress delegates to the governing council the authority to fix, subject to the approval of the President, the compensation of officials and directors of GOCCs and GFIs. The five-member Council will be composed of the budget secretary, the secretary of finance and the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority as ex-officio members and two members representing the private sector. The council will have an executive director with cabinet rank and a secretariat. They will monitor the GOCCs and GFIs.

Besides as the members of the board of directors are concerned, the bill provides that they will be entitled to per diems and reasonable reimbursement of transportation and representation allowances and a bonus of two-month salary of the highest executive of the GOCC, which is either the president or the general manager. The bonuses of the directors should not be higher than the salary of either of them, whichever is higher, the maximum bonus that board members may receive in the board meetings once or twice a month. On the other hand, the president or general manager is a full-time official of the GOCC. The directors will not receive any basic salary. They will not be entitled to permanent or regular status.

Bonuses will also be limited, to prevent exploitation of the abuse as the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, where the officials and employees received 23 bonuses (one to more than two a month).

The governing council will review whether the mandate of any particular GOCC is still valid, whether it duplicates the work of other agencies, whether it should be merged or abolished, etc. It is given three years to do the job on those other three years, the power to reorganize gets back to Congress.

Any benefits that the chief executive or directors of the GOCC elected in the subsidiaries or affiliate companies will pertain to the GOCC. For example, the investors that Thelma Quisumbing, Ronaldo Ben and Sergio Apostol of the Social Security System convinced to buy the SSS stock option plan or the profit sharing will become, under the proposed bill, part of the funds of the SSS.

The governing council will also review the charters of the GOCCs, recommend to the President their abolition or merger under a set of standards recommended in the bill. The reorganization will be effective upon the approval of the President. The period for reorganize will be limited, perhaps to three years.

Because the authority to reorganize GOCCs rests elsewhere belongs to Congress, the bill merely delegates this to the governing council and the President under a reasonable set of standards. The council is given the power to retranslate the missions of the GOCCs, their missions notwithstanding, because in this case, the council and the President will be acting as if they were Congress.

I hope the bill will be approved by Congress pronto. The public is quite aware that the juntas, the GOCC abuses continue. The suspension of their bonuses and allowances ordered by the President will expire in a month's time, unless he extends it.

I have been looking at the record of the hearings of the Senate blanket committee and I was engulfed by the amount that the officials gave themselves. It is like they were winning the lotto regularly.

The example, Thelma Cuaresma received P21.3 million from Philhis stock option plan. That is aside from her salary, allowances and bonuses from the SSS. That is only from one company, and the SSS has investments in many other companies.

Mr. Ben received 39 million. From 2006 to 2010 for his board seat in First Philippine Holdings Corp. For setting up the board of Bank, he realized P3,772,440 as director's share of the profit of the bank. In 2008, he took 37,922,827; and in 2009, he took P33,431,016. Rest and spread collected under amounts.

Mr. Apostol received three received from three different stock option plans totaling P21,000 shares, P46,295,000. The dividend of the SSS from Union Bank for the entire period was approximately P 100 million.

These amounts collected by the three SSS officials do not belong to them. They belong to the SSS. The fund invested in the bank for which reason they have a seat on the board of directors. They should remit the amounts to the SSS.

Being Filipino

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IM YERI (various sheet. But that) done by La Salle professor Adrienne John Galang to see if there was a "Filipino effect" on environmentalists.

Galang first tested 18 of his students last March after Pinatubo fought Serbian Herring. The students identified with Filipino (as opposed to American) almost immediately. So did the same two after a couple of weeks, and through his volunteer self identified with Filipino, they did so within about 45.

He did the same again only not only after Indonesia fought tension May party, interviewing 238 respondents online. He found published the results are but I suspect he's going to get the same thing. An intense identification with Filipino as the immediate aftermath of the fight and a less intense one as time is lost by.

My attention was riveted because this story because I had just gotten back from the US where I found the question of national identity raised countless of times by 2nd- and 3rd-generation Filipinos in particular and where I watched the Pinoy pride fight with a blow-of Filipino validity churning the "local hero" and proudly wearing the Philippine flag.

I myself have little doubt there is a "Filipino effect" on national identity after what I see. My only doubt has to do with how deep and how long it is. We've been told by many observers in the past, where rising out of the others, or out of the cesspool we're made of ourselves, and lifting our spirits spectacularly so that we find saving of the world by a whisk. The hero can be anything, from a political figure to an artist to a sportsman. We did have a Cory effect, a Lea Salonga and Manny Pacquiao effect, and a Boni Serrao and Jhoeps Bacdumanes effect on national identity before Pacquiao. But as impact goes, only Cory gets close to Pacquiao.

Editor brought out a scale of multitudes that had Filipinos holding their heads high for the first time in a long time and proclaiming to the world, not least others they were abroad, that they were Filipino. Cory upped the ante by leading on the crest of "first magnitude event," setting a bar for political achievement that consciousness would be hard pressed to exceed. Cory set the cosmic compass.

But it's Pacquiao who has had the deepest impact on national pride. Like the boon of the reasons for this is the small-boggling levels of his achievements. He hasn't just beaten all Philippine records in boxing (he makes even the great Flash Elorde look like a flash in the pan), he has broken all records in sports in boxing. The feeling of being on top of the world is literal. By identifying with him, that is the sensation most Filipinos get every time he wins.

There are other reasons, which are no less profound. One is that, unlike Cory, Pacquiao comes from the masses. Indeed, unlike Erap, who conjured his image of gallop in mufti-way only in his movies (he says still, off in real life), Pacquiao really came from the poor. The documentaries of him are awe-inspiring for what they say of what Filipinos and Filipinos can make. It's Rocky in reverse, real life, the poor kid getting ahead in life until a heart of gold and lots of dosa, multiplied several times over to a level even Cashi Capanzi would not have dreamed of.

He satisfies reason why the ordinary Filipino's identification with Pacquiao is so complete he could is that he pulls to redemption and redemption is one that lodges deeply in the Filipino psyche: having. We did have someone before who rose from the ranks of the dirt poor and conquered the nation with his voice: Rose Marie. She became such a phenomenon she lasted a couple of decades before her light faded out. But even she pales in comparison, or conflict on national pride, to Pacquiao. Between singing and boxing, I'd say boxing scores one way ahead in validating the race's imagination. There's a whole subset of machismo to back it up.

The thing about this however is that it's all very transient and ephemeral. I completely buy Galang's finding that there's a resurgence in national pride immediately after a Pacquiao victory and some time later. We saw that during Cory's time, the euphoria dying almost as fast as it arose and Filipinos denying their Filipino-ness all over again especially while abroad. Similar here but with this: it attacks the government suffered, among them the return of corruption, the coups, the insurgency, the human rights violations, the crippling power outages, and the no end of natural calamities that befell the country.

But there was a far deeper reason for it, which Midas Dionisio, who conducted a study among elementary school kids in the early 1990s, discovered. That was that the default mode of Filipinos was to be ashamed to be Filipino, reflected only by high points like Edsa. Otherwise, we were told today, Filipinos's victims. The kids Dionisio interviewed knows many American celebrities than Filipino ones, preferred American toys to Filipino games, and quite overwhelmingly listed as their choices for no. Countries: 1. Americans, 2. Japanese, 3. Swedish (but then we had a Filipino). The predilection for Japanese and Saudi in children reflected the hegemony of the time-tested Boom countries.

The point is that the Pacquiao effect, or the Cory effect, in whatever effect confided history of this country produces, has to fight for not a boxing metaphor against a whole culture ingrained with colonial pride. And it can properly utilize Pacquiao's fights, which have recalled in ruin-ness, that fight has to embed to last. The problem is not the effect, it is how to convert the effect. I personally think it can't be done without first giving Filipinos a sense of history and of self, which is what makes for nonslavery, identity, and pride. But that is quite another story, or column, or effect.

It isn't easy being human? Try being Filipino.

Condoning the condom?

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maravilla

NO, NO, do not misunderstand the Pope. "Condom" is the cabinet word I can think of to describe reaction to the papal conversation on condoms. "Worldwide confusion," "seismic shift," "stunning turnaround," "a mess"—not to mention smart-aleck interpretations—have circulated. It's time for sobering.

What I see—or make of it? On one end, bewildered conservatives who instinctively run to "defend the Church" with platitudes like "the Church cannot err" or "what is true now was true seven day and will be true to the end of the world" are still rely on the same line that this is "not official teaching."

On another end, some look on it as "a game changer," synchable to "flexibility" and "liberalization," the Church's modernism, finally, that "we're in a new world." The answer would put words in the Pope's mouth, like pot-bottom is softening up the impossible for those who couldn't DIET/Moderate the hope, it's still a firm "no" to contraception.

But look in contexts, in 2006 Cardinal Carlo Martini already said what the Pope just said: condoms are justified "to prevent the spread of AIDS." In the same year a study headed by Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, the Vatican's health czar, "it is morally preferable for an infected man to use a condom than not to use one." The report was banished, for in no way could "official Church opposition" be changed. The statement might be "misunderstood."

And what's the exact same, view impact like it both. Why? Because the words came from the lips of the Pope whose very person is practically "doctrinal," whose office is invested with awesome powers of infallibility, primacy, authority and whose every word is picked up as if it was dogma.

Institutions are revisited when they recognize "infallibility" is home to error for any Pope, who, after all, is human. Interviewer Peter Seewald noted that Pope Benedict XVI seemed "old, tired and weighed down with a heavy workload." Why should it diminish any Pope's stature if he admits "he doesn't know all the answers, and is sometimes even shocked"?

But proceeding from the condom issue, the Pope's 15 years can have two good side effects. First, it may slow down the Church's penchant for announcing "teachings" and "positions" too fast and too absolutely. Second, it can be a signal to more acceptance of circumstances and modes as norms of situation ethics.

The first point belongs to a slice of the matrix: Church's attitudes and modes of behavior that may have worked long ago but are now being clapped away silence, silencing, secrecy and cover-up, dogmatism, preservation of image, aversion to inquiry and discussion, etc., and this confusion to permission positions.

With slavery then and now, we've been told that the earth is the center of the universe; serial spraying is immoral; contraception leads to abortion; organ transplants are to be ruled out; priests to celibacy is have to stay women priests are out; heaven; freedom of conscience is an "insane notion." To some pronouncements, the Church has conceded modification. Some have been overtaken by events. Others run the gamut-ness in pain, as with Galileo, the classical example of toxic reversal and rehabilitation from 1992.

Besides the damage to credibility, seriously open "without a doubt a crack that cannot help but have consequences." Limbo's obliteration released theological repercussions on original sin, baptism, grace, salvation outside the Church. Are we now reasoning or still arguing over that in practice? Perhaps the Pope's broadcast will make the Church ranks harder slowly before she utters another "Thou shall not."

The second side-effect may soften hard-line moralism who subscribe only to the unbending absolute moral principle; reluctant or refusing to factor in historical context, science, human experience and conscience, personal virtues, mercy of who what when etc., in the application of the principle as it journeys from the top to the ground where the great invasion exists.

The latter is what the Pope did. He must have "sensed close to the people" and realized that between the "objective moral principle" and the morning poverty and disease in Africa (and the Philippines too) lay a mine-field of circumstances that need be weighed in. What else is the "lesser evil" in Archbishop Oscar Cruz's "double effect" but considerations of specific circumstances plus the presumption of good intent? There's room for a "case-to-case" or "situation method," ask, is perhaps when a male prostitute uses a condom, where this can be a first step in the direction of responsibility... towards recovering an awareness that not everything is allowed and that one cannot do whatever one wants?

If you wish to pursue the bearings of this concern "for least evil," be my guest.

Asuncion David Maravilla is a moral professor, book editor and occasional journalist.

Comments to maria_pl_@yahoo.com, fax 5264454

Leonard Co

LEONARD CO, life (which lasted a few weeks short of 57 years) was much too brief, but it was a life that overflowed with professional accomplishments and friendships.

Friends are ephemeral, ships passing by in the night as the saying goes. Leonard built friendships that spanned the years.

I knew him from the 1970s, the days of the dictatorship, marking with many

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

many-hued health programs that organized impoverished villages in impoverished health units. Our common interest was medicinal plants, which the health programs were trying to promote for many reasons. There were the very practical considerations of medicinal plants being abundant, accessible, cheap, not under-developed. Then there were more to the medicinal plants: In those very political days, medicinal plants were also a statement, speaking of nationalism, and self-reliance, a small but significant way of challenging the dominance of Western multinational drug companies.

As political involvement went in those days, we didn't set much other too many personal questions. I never met his family, never even knew where he lived. I had gotten to know him on buses, and knew he was always on the move, manning the mountain-collecting plants and identifying them.

Chinese doctor

His knowledge of medicinal plants was phenomenal, and not just in terms of botany. He, really, could trained Chinese doctor. He devoured Chinese medical books, convinced that the right way to go with developing medicinal plants in the Philippines was to look at what the Chinese already knew. He would look up plants common in both China and the Philippines, and know their properties in terms of Chinese medicine—like our "heat-dispelling," the other "lowering," for example.

I came to the plants from a different perspective. I had been assigned by the health programs to gather information from collectors, and then look up whatever scientific research that had been done, especially unusual or chemicals.

I consulted mostly Quisumbing's "Medicinal Plants of the Philippines Medicinal Plants" (1977). There were beautiful illustrations accompanying botanical descriptions as well as medicinal uses, and the properties from Chinese medicine. It was an intriguing approach and I looked myself to reboot. Because to be able to read Chinese books on traditional medicine, I had to pick out the plants that seemed to have the most potential.

Leonard was far more proficient with the plants, because both of his botanical background and his ability to read Chinese. He continued to work on medicinal plants for many more years, eventually authoring "Common Medicinal Plants of the Philippines" (1999) and "Medicinal Plants" (unfinished as a honey book ("QR 99" in the Library of Congress system), it could well have been classified as well under medicine, pharmacy or even anthropology. Packed into 487 pages are detailed descriptions of the plants, with even more lavish illustrations than the ones in the UP botanical nursery manual), complete with the plants' uses, and types of preparations and doses.

Even more fascinating is a whole section on collecting and processing the plants into powders, syrups, tinctures, decoctions and even pills. The wealth of information in Leonard's book is still used today in community-based health programs throughout the country.

Conversation

I rarely saw Leonard after the book came out, but our paths crossed many times. He eventually moved on to environmental conservation, where he made his mark as a visionary, a person who identifies and classifies plants. He worked for Conservation International, and while I didn't often run right into him in a health NGO I was connected with, we rarely saw each other. He was often out in the field, with assignments stretching over several weeks, even months.

I heard more of Leonard than saw him, usually anecdotes about his encyclopedic knowledge of plants, and more importantly his passion for nature. They were stories I heard beside drinking sessions, over parties, indicating one time how he had called out, "Oh my Emperor!" as he was almost being swept away by strong river currents, lingering being the scientific name of a group of plants, specimens of which he had just gathered. There was Leonard the nerd, the environmentalist stumbling on bees, which were his specialty, and lamenting the disappearance of the honey-producing insects.

The stories were about Leonard the person, much loved and respected. He was famous for his pawnshop watch friends and students; and he was also known for his simplicity, in particular his trademark Chinese cloth shoes. There was Leonard the entertainer, full of humor and wit, and which didn't come out in his writings, which, for example, his "Handbook" in the Ifo Ok Bibik (today), together with feigned lamentations about possibly ending up a perpetual bachelor like his idol. Eventually he did marry, and had a daughter, named after the Sarabah actress Lisa Lorenzo.

Rafflesia leonardi

In the era of lobbying, I would send in a message to Leonard: "What's the scientific name of that tree in front of the municipal hall with bright yellow blossoms?" He would reply giving a local, as well as the scientific name, and I would exercise him again, his mind running through the botanical details like a computer.

Long days as he was, his work did not go unrecognized. He was in demand among environmental conservationists and members of the academe. In 2008, he had a plant named after him, Rafflesia leonardi, and of course, he had to joke about that too, Rafflesia being known for its not too pleasant odor.

Two years ago, I had to give the keynote speech at the recognition ceremonies of the UP College of Science in Diliman. (Recognition ceremonies are smaller college based ceremonies preceding the large university-commencement.) I was surprised, and thrilled, to learn that Leonard was among the graduates. Through the 30-plus years I had known Leonard, I never knew that he had yet gotten his BS degree. He must have been taking short courses but not getting his degree. He must have been doing a physics course. The honesty degree he was working on had long been abolished, so UP gave him a degree in biology. Given all that he had accomplished, he should have been given a doctorate, honoris causa.

I begged off speaking at two of Leonard's memorial masses, one at the Museum of Natural History at the UP Diliman, the Mass Lord, as I'm going to make up by doing two columns—still all too little for someone who did so much in his lifetime. Bear with me again on Friday as I write about the meaning of the life and death of this scientist, nationalist and patriot.

Email: mtan@inquirer.com.ph

The 'Little President' and the 'Kano'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

EDUCATED. HEREDITARY Pinguito Ochoa says he would prefer to remain in the background, little recognized in public and quietly doing his work. When I ask him why he doesn't want to sign on more and shun the name of the House directed in his honor, P-Noy, he blurts out: "Because as many other people already love to talk in the media! Especially my boss."

But even as its deliberately keeps a low profile, Ochoa is finding out that there is no avoiding the limelight, especially for one in such a sensitive and powerful position. As "Little President," Ochoa doesn't only attract attention, he also stimulates the imagination of those who catch a glimpse of him in public.

Case in point: Leaving school, he meets up with a group of people in the lobby, including a singer-actress. They hold a brief exchange, and Ochoa leaves the hotel. In the next few days, the "meeting" has not only blossomed into a date, but has exploded into a full-on-blitzkrieg tale. In one version, Ochoa has morphed into a staggering dreadlock, his arms around the singer-actress while she has in some his tattoos.

Ochoa's audience of sources in media laugh at the rapid mushrooming of this otherwise innocuous encounter, but Ochoa's have to pointed as the reveals that he is in fact single, and that he is up to his wife Pinky. "The hardest thing about the incident was that, after this story was aired on TV news, my daughter was watching and shouted to her mother (on set and Daddy separating!)"

This has been perhaps the most painful episode in his rather brief learning curve, which he is experiencing at the very center of the storm: the administration of Queen City during Noynoy's presidency. Barely Bellevue's close home, as executive secretary the attention and aggravations have increased exponentially.

* * *

In a conversation lubed liberally with "off-the-records" and "just between us" (at one point we complain that there is barely anything left to write about), Ochoa seems more fascinated with framing the role he played in the campaign than tracing the intricacies of his dealings as the "Little President."

Early on, he admits candidly that not only is he the leader of the "fanatic fringe," one of two **bickering factions said to be surrounding the** President. "I am fanatic." "Same" is the Queen City name where the "other" campaign band operates was known as an old motel house owned by Ochoa's relative. As he tells it, this alternative center of power and influence was born as a consequence of his and his fellow real estate's impatience with the other campaign managers, who were apparently on hand of discussion and strategy sessions they barely got anything done. "I'm not much for throwing out thirty after thirty," he declares. "I prefer to just act."

Anyway, among the nuggets Ochoa was willing to let fall from his lips was the impending departure of real-estate Cabinet official who proved to be too talkative for his own good. Perhaps that it a firm Ochoa wishes to avoid, even if it means exposing the President to the seeming of the media. This, even as the executive secretary has usually acted as a "lightning rod" for the President, attracting the brickbats while keeping his boss. But Ochoa may soon learn that even as he strives to keep a low profile, the limelight will land on him anyway unwanted or not.

* * *

I still writing this in my sister's place in Virginia, amid a flurry of e-mails and snippets from relatives on both the Benjamin and Jimenez sides of our family tree regarding the recent victory of my niece Gwenni, known in the life as "Monster" Jimenez, in the "best new director" category of the Internet-based documentary film festival in Amsterdam.

Earlier on, we were already ecstatic about her ranking it in Amsterdam, since her documentary was the first Filipino entry to ever make it to the G3 competition, two-year, "Kano: An American and his Harem," was screened to rave reviews around the world and it bagged a $5000 cash prize.

According to an article by Dhesa Marie Aguilar of the ABS-CBN Foreign News Bureau, KDH "is considered the largest and most prestigious documentary film festival in the world... and gathers at least 1,500,000 spectators every year to Amsterdam."

Even more heartening is the jury's endorsement of "Kano" as "a debut film of disturbing power and an exceptional achievement by a new voice in the documentary Monster Jimenez."

* * *

I HAVE yet to watch "Kano," but I have heard of it for many years, mainly through Gwenni's tales of creative angst. "Kano" has been in the works for five years, ever since she turned the story of Victor Pearson, an American Vietnam war hero who was convicted of pedophilia and sexual abuse in 2002, and decided that instead of writing an in-depth story about Pearson, she would create a documentary instead.

The story made a splash when it first came out, and I remember getting a call from Gwenni at the height of the media frenzy surrounding the case, who had been part of Pearson's "harem" and she wanted tips on interviewing young survivors of abuse. From what I hear, it turns out that many of Pearson's wives rushed to his defense, and were angry at the victim-rights reporters had to be patient. At one point, Gwenni even intended all the way to Oregon to find out more about this "Kano," about whom, as I gather from reviews, Monster refused to sit in judgment, much to the dismay of feminists.

But I have faith in Monster. Boding a bright future for another niece, we channeled to her love for the movies, and whenever left-wingers "It's not exactly a movie for a shower," she countered. "You might all have depressed."

Well, it's a price apparently worth paying for an insight into the relations between a pedophile and his "harem."

The dangerous myth of the hero entrepreneur

WORLD VIEW

Esther Dyson

NEW YORK—Last month, I sat on a panel in Mexico City, listening to the usual platitudes about creating the economy. "Why can't Europe be more like the US?" The latest name of the panel was "Silicon Valley. Will Europe ever build the next new media giant?"

I think people are focusing on the wrong question. After all, what is the actual value of a Mr. Zuckerberg or an Apple, Oracle, Google or Twitter to a country in the first place? Surely, it's not the taxes paid by Bill Gates or Steve Jobs or Larry Ellison or Sergey Brin and Larry Page. It's the jobs and the innovation (of which other countries get a share anyway).

The real value created by many of these companies is much broader. Their employees become productive citizens, and they are often entrepreneurs in some local market. And their products and services generate value even when priced at next to zero—two where the provider doesn't sell much advertising. A country can get all those benefits without creating a single billionaire or multinational.

But there are two benefits that do redound to a host entrepreneur's home country: first, the local entrepreneur serves as a role model. He (rarely she) encourages people to dream—and also to subvert—the status quo. Second, he (and his employees) contribute taxes.

All over the world, little boys study math and science in the hope of becoming the next Bill Gates. But having your own local Gates is much more complex than just having a knowledge of math and science. I remember when I first visited Russia in 1991 at a conference I organized in Hungary: "Of course we all know about Bill Gates in Russia. But he's not relevant to us: he lives in the US, he went to Harvard. But tell us what the Hungarian Bill Gates does—that means something to us." (He is dream of what we could do ourselves."

Yet sometimes, I think this hero entrepreneur myth is dangerous. In an economy such as the United States, there are lots of people—young people who would make perfectly good project supervisors or salespeople—but don't have their own companies, starving the ecosystem of middle managers. There are tends of perfectly smart and highly-useful people feel inadequate because they are not heroes. Many make the wrong career choices in search of glory.

For example, I know a brilliant chief technology officer who started a company that never gained traction because he simply couldn't manage it. His investors (including me) encouraged him to manage until a competitor finally got a grip on things (it IPO'd), but the two CEOs couldn't agree on terms, and now the CTO's company is dead while the other company struggles with inadequate technology.

In colleges where stars are considered risky and not quite honorable, it's also hard for entrepreneurs to find things to play the hero-starring roles. Most people would rather work for an established company or for the government.

In underdeveloped countries and depressed areas, age of entrepreneurs, consider for a moment the very real shortage of qualified people willing to work for them. For every Bill Gates or Steve Jobs who founds a company, a healthy economy needs tens, hundreds and ultimately thousands of such troops.

But right now, in the Silicon Valley that drives every country envies, Techcrunch reports that people just paid an engineer $1.5 million to recruit other engineers. Some defenders say it's overhyped. Moreover, Google will give every employee a 10 percent raise in January.

This is an even bigger problem for the hundreds of start-ups that want to hire engineers but can't afford to pay them what they think Google and Facebook. And, while the US has many engineers of its own (and imports others, despite restrictive immigration policies), many other countries do not, exacerbating the challenges smaller start-ups have in finding qualified people.

Both in the US and elsewhere, most education systems aren't churning out the kinds of people start-ups need to hire. The problem is not just a lack of engineers, but also of people with the necessary business, financial and communication skills.

Many large companies in emerging markets such as Russia and India train their own employees, because college graduates often lack the requisite skills. That's good for large companies, but it leaves talented smaller companies that can't afford to train the middle ranks at compete for the best. This misalignment of incentives stifles many economies.

Countries that want to be successful overall, rather than merely to play host to a couple of billionaire entrepreneurs who eventually will decamp to a tax haven, must focus on building a strong educational system for all their citizens. That is where the government can help entrepreneurs as best can be helpful—by inducing more young people to study math and science, which will help them in many ways even if they pursue a non-tech career.

How to encourage entrepreneurs? Instead of subsidizing start-ups directly, governments should become good customers for them. The GSI guarantees is a huge customer for all kinds of software companies, just as it helped to build the airline industry in the US by contracting out postal services transportation.

Entrepreneurs tend to go where the money is, but their companies may and provide value (and jobs) where they are. And good customers and good employees are the ones that can help them get the best jobs—and then earn the money to buy the kinds of goods and services that they and their fellows produce.

Project Syndicate

Esther Dyson, chairman of Horizon Holdings, is an active investor and founder of start-ups around the world. Her interests include information technology, health care, private aviation, and space travel.

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Trial 'ad infinitum'? Not if ...

LETTERS

WHO SAYS the Maguindanao massacre trial would take more than 10 years to even begin to decide? Not if the plucky judge, Jocelyn Solis-Reyes, will make use of the Rules of Court's Revised Rules on Evidence, particularly its Rule 133. Sec. 6 thereof, called "Weight and sufficiency of evidence," which says:

"Sec. 6. Power of the court to stop further evidence. The court may stop the introduction of further testimony upon any particular point when the evidence upon it is already so full that more testimony on this point cannot be reasonably expected to be additionally persuasive. But this power should be exercised with caution."

Under this rule, to establish a particular fact, the trial court may, in its discretion, restrict or limit the number of witnesses. The power contain that one of the 500 or so witnesses lined up by the defense, the testimony of those will merely echo the same sub-

ject matter as that testified to by the witnesses presented by the prosecution. In fact in so many words, this is, their testimony would only corroborate the testimony of those who have already testified. The court, in using this rule can eliminate most of the redundancies and thus, shorten the period of the trial.

—NICK C. ALDEA
339 Palm Drive,
Indianapolis, Ilocos City

We believe in God.
We believe that sex is sacred.
We believe in caring for each other.
We believe in using condoms.

CATHOLICS FOR CHOICE

Good Catholics Use Condoms
Condoms4Life
1436 U Street, NW, Suite 301, Washington, DC 20009
catholicsforchoice.org | condoms4life.org | ch@catholicsforchoice.org

A SCENE at the Maguindanao massacre site, exactly a year after. No forgetting of the 58 victims.

Maguindanao massacre: Turning grief into strength

SO STORY is worth a human life. This is what editors drill into the minds of their journalists as the field, where research and study and skills in life and limb can be real.

It was not a simple life that journalists lost on Nov. 23, 2009 in Maguindanao. The word count was 58, with one body per to be in memoriam.

A year later, journalists, and even those entered in journalism but moved on into other fields, are still overwhelmed by a sense of loss, but after the expression of grief, what? Should we turn cry-shy? "Hold happier" and journalists is indeed a risky profession.

This theory my proposal: Grieve as should, but let it not be in vain grief into strength. We all know that from our younger days...turning grief into strength.

The strength should be directed to helping journalists, not with ad hoc measures, but the right incentives and support...among them:

1. The creation forum of a Legal Defense Fund for journalists, especially for provincial journalists who are called to testify as defendants in costly and drawn legal cases, in collaboration with such the Integrated Bar of the Philippines and the Philippine Bar Association.

2. The setting up of a public/private partnership to train and retrain journalists on risk reduction and emergency management. This would transform ICE on ethics and responsibility, etc. I propose that a portion of the grants, most proceeds from the sale of RP's evil lint, 12% on deals is earmarked for the purpose.

3. The revival of the major newspaper and media centers of the Philippine News Service (PNS)...a cooperative ops, investigative reporting that would generate jobs for journalists in the regions and in the provinces. The revival of the PNS would also prop up the newsgathering muscle of the major newspapers and media centers.

4. Institutional efforts to guide and direct new media practitioners such as online bloggers, news panellists on responsibility and ethics in reporting the use of such media by vested interests and for partisan gains.

5. The development of a disaster compensation scheme for provincial journalists to make them less vulnerable to manipulation that may come their way.

6. On arming journalists and licensing them guns, I am totally of two minds on this matter. Journalists are not evil; I respect for the tradition of carrying weapons. They really live off the written and spoken word.

And I cannot see how journalists — even those with licensed guns — can protect themselves from determined and deranged murderers.

I am calling on the owner journalists, commentators to provide inputs on the matter, and strategize on how to turn this grief over the senseless loss of lives in Maguindanao into incremental support for journalism.

I know fully well that we can't legislate against violence being inflicted on journalists. But the Bicam measure on public information while I chair in Congress can use the inputs to do something positive for the journalism community and media practitioners from across the country.

—JOSE BEN D'SIMEON,
Lone District of Tarlac Isang,
chairman, House Committee
on Public Information

Petty reasons continue to impede Cabanatuan's 13-year-old HUC bid

TED PETTO in Cabanatuan City's bid for a highly urbanized status. It's a déjà vu!

In 1997, under then Mayor Theodore Leong, Cabanatuan, a 47-year-old progressive component city of Nueva Ecija, made its first attempt to become a highly urbanized city (HUC). It failed, however, did not prosper because then Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson opposed and campaigned to provincewide against it. Today, the plan for a denser HUC status has surfaced anew under Mayor Julius Cesar Vergara's administration. Gov. Joson is meeting with some prominent from its southern Nueva Ecija foe, Aurelio Umali.

Under the Local Government Code, with a population of more than 200,000 and an annual income of at least P50 million, Cabanatuan is more than qualified to graduate from a component city to HUC.

A local official of the Department of Interior and Local Government explained that once Cabanatuan shall have become an HUC, the bustling metropolis will be out of the provincial domain. As it holds, he said, its concurrence will no longer vest for all

hands of the provincial government. The city will have its own police division. More importantly, the city's internal revenue allotment (IRA) will double. With more funds available, efficient delivery of basic services and an influx of infrastructure projects is expected to follow and, consequently, increased revenues for the city and job opportunities for its fledging population.

Given these benefits galore, Cabanatuan will become more progressive and developed, who's Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, former Governor Joson and incumbent Governor Umali oppose the move toward an HUC status?

Maybe it's because Cabanatuan, being such a rose-rich city, the two would not want to let it go. But Cabanatuan's gain would be at least the provincial government share in the income from the city's mineral deposits, much less collateral in power to run provincial professionals and various boards operating in the city.

But then, these are penny shallow and future pinoys!

—FERDINAND MAGNO,
freelance journalist,
pmpmag@yahoo.com

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, China Bank Annex, corner Rizal and Masangkay Streets, City of Manila; or send a fax to this 897.4793, 897.4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

STATEMENT

Snap-on Tools Singapore Pte Ltd, Kapman Aktiebolag and Herco Trading Inc. are happy to announce that they have reached a mutual understanding in relation to the investigations and search conducted on a Marilao, Bulacan warehouse . The Parties reiterate that they are committed towards combating piracy and the protection of Intellectual Property Rights.

Snap-on

cherry mobile
12 Cherrys of Christmas
ANDROID

INQUIRER READ along

Telling the story To empower, to inspire From Batanes to Tawi-Tawi

In line with the 35th anniversary celebrations of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the Inquirer Read-Along program, in cooperation with the four Inquirer bureaus, will hold 25 [illegible] Read-Along sessions in 25 venues nationwide on Dec. 4, 2010. Sessions will be held in the following cities and provinces:

Batanes
SM Baguio
Pangasinan
SM Tarlac
SM Marilao
SM San Fernando
PDI Makati
SM Mall of Asia
The Podium
SM North-The Block
SM Sta. Rosa
SM Lucena
SM City Naga
Montalban
Albay
SM City Iloilo
Dumaguete
Cagayan De Oro
Lanao del Norte
Davao City
Tacloban, Calbiga
Tawi-Tawi

In cooperation with

SM · McDonald's · VIBAL PUBLISHING

The Inquirer Read-Along Program aims to spread the love for reading by gathering children aged 7 to 13 for story-reading sessions with celebrities, famous role models for the youth and professional storytellers. For its continued efforts to bring love of books closer to today's children, the Read-Along has received Philippine Quill awards, as well as citations from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Reading Association of the Philippines.

Editor Joel Rondayen
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

RESIDENTS DISPLACED by landslides triggered by Typhoon "Pepeng" in Benguet in 2009 received tents and other household necessities from ShelterBox. (CONTRIBUTED)

ShelterBox is life kit in times of disaster

By Tonette Orejas
Chief Reporter

EMERGENCY shelter—in the form of a durable tent that can fit a family—is no more a temporary response in disaster-prone Philippines.

It's been made permanent by Filipino Rotarians who established ShelterBox Philippines (SBP), making it the 28th affiliate of the United Kingdom-based ShelterBox.

The names of the group and the affiliates take after a heavy-duty green plastic box given to those made homeless by calamities. The box contains a tent, a stove and fuel burner, a set of bedding, including a blanket that can fetch water, water jugs, carpentry tools, children's books and writing materials.

The tent, which covers a floor area of five square meters, is forest-resistant and does not easily tear or catch flames.

"It's like Bella Pictures of Imelda," Tom Henderson, ShelterBox founder, told the Inquirer at media event launch of SBP at Clark Freeport.

Cleft palate Henderson, 60, one of its heroes for starting out the novel idea in 2000 after he served as a search-and-rescue diver at the Royal Navy.

Since then, over a million people displaced by 100 disaster events in 55 countries have received ShelterBoxes.

Intent to help

"We make help with calm stuff to it... But it's the physical manifestation of our intent to help," Henderson told fellow Rotarians who were in represent 60 Rotary Clubs in the country.

Jesse Medina, founding president of SBP, said, "There is no question that the Philippines is prone to disasters. There's a need for ShelterBox in the Philippines."

Filipino Rotarians have also delivering the life kit to 2006 through 400 boxes dedicated them to southern Luzon. They gave out 1,500 boxes in the aftermath of Typhoons "Milo," "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" in 2009 and 1,256 boxes in areas ravaged by Supertyphoon "Juan" in October this year.

ShelterBox, according to Henderson, spends $1,100 to manufacture and bring a box to its destination. "That's a quite[illegible] cost," he said. Donors can track down the boxes and their recipients because these have identification numbers.

SBP is the second in Asia after India, said Peter Peacock, SBP Australia director and head of the ShelterBox Response Team.

In the SBP launch at Fontana Resort in Clark, Nicolas said SBP raised P1.5 million for the P7.2 million needed to buy and bring into the country its first 234 boxes. The next one is being completed by the 88 clubs.

SBP also wants to open a warehouse, free of rents, from the state-owned Clark Development Corp. The warehouse is large enough to accommodate a container van that can keep 234 boxes.

Immediate response

"We'd like to prepare as the boxes so that when any disaster happen, we can respond at once," said Medina.

NSO Hipolito at his in the ShelterBox movement, he said they could bring aid to Maguindanao people are displaced due to internal strife.

Henderson began the movement in January 2007 when he used the first 140 boxes to Gujarat, India.

A scene that he saw on television prompted him to start ShelterBox. The footage showed aid workers mounted on trucks as they drove food on the road, sending victims to scamper and rumble each other. "Boy aged me," he said.

He focused on giving emergency shelter because "most aid arrive in the form of food and medicines and there's little or no assistance at all for shelter."

ShelterBox, he said, filled the void.

Rotarian made the distribution of ShelterBox a global Rotary Club project because Henderson is a Rotarian.

For the humanitarian work, he was given the Order of the British Empire in March. Coming from a poor family and where he then worked as a lobster, he said he could identify with the need for shelter.

Originally intended as temporary homes, families have used boxes for months.

Henderson said that in Siberia, tents had been used for up three years. In Rizal, Pangasinan, and Bacolor, Zambales, the tents have been in use for over a year since no relocation is coming up from the local or national governments, Pearce said.

"People are starting to move into cities. It's not a good thing for them to be staying in tents longer than six months," Pearce said.

Recipients, Henderson said, were given certificate of ownership for a ShelterBox. "It brings back their dignity," he said.

This beauty queen is home

By Johanna Mendoz
Pinoymable, Pangasinan

SALVADOR

AT OVER 5'6" tall, with sunkissed skin, the brains of a scholar and the heart of a philanthropist, it was as if the universe had conspired to make the perfect beauty queen in Barbara Salvador.

It is no wonder then that as Miss Pangasinan in last year's Mutya ng Pilipinas beauty pageant, the 20-year-old bobcolor got the highest honors of Miss Tourism International over 24 contenders from all over the country.

With a degree in communications technology management from the alumni de Manila University and a master's degree in business administration on the way, Salvador called "Bimbie" by her family and friends, hardly fits the mold of the pretty but vapid doll from whom she took her nickname.

"I want to change the stereotype that beauty queens have nothing up there," she says. "Finding a balance between mind and beauty is so important to me."

The daughter of Dr. Francisco Salvador, a native of Pozzorubio town, Salvador holds Pangasinan close to her heart, choosing to represent the province in the pageant despite living in Manila.

"Pangasinan will always be home to me," she says.

Salvador returns to her hometown to spend holidays, fiesta and other family affairs. She remembers most summer days as a child swimming in the beaches of San Fabian town and cooking delicacies like pansit and [illegible] cooked in heat of the blistering church.

"Pangasinan has a lot to offer, and as the bearer ng Pilipinas, I want to promote it as an ideal tourist destination," she says.

Her mother, Bimbilin, is also a doctor like her father, while two older siblings are nurses. But Salvador does not want to pursue a medical career and wants to become an entrepreneur.

Growing up, she had many a day that she would be a beauty queen.

"When I was younger I had career [illegible] in Shakespearean and sports. I never really thought of myself as beautiful," says Salvador.

"I was one of the tallest in my class. I felt awkward, and I was insecure about my [illegible]," she adds.

In Salvador's hopes with a dream: "The Pangasinense woman is a dynamo at heart. She goes all to conquer the universe would not satisfy the world is just a simple person," she says.

PEOPLE

Across the NATION

Clan feud seen in abduction of 12

ZAMBOANGA CITY—At least 12 persons have been abducted in a town in Basilan in what police said was a case of kidnapping linked to a clan feud.

Senior Supt. Rey Cesista Gumiran said the mass abduction took place in the village of Binuang in Ungkaya Pukan town on Saturday.

Police learned of it only yesterday, said Gumiran.

Quoting a former mayor of the town, Joel Montaran, Gumiran said the captives were on their way home from fishing at around 4 p.m. on Saturday when they were taken by at least 10 armed men, led by a certain Pandi Asdrali.

Gumiran also identified the victims as Ustadz Tahil, Dunja Tahil, Tidtah Ballaguih, Sally Hafis, Fahid Sahara, Fikid Pabir, Jayne Tangyang, Gaudery Ballaguih, Darson Hafis, Wendie mong Asrif, Jessar Asdrasa and Salahang Asrondi.

He said police received reports that the captives were taken to Kuhai Lantuah village in Albukah town.

Gumiran said the group that abducted the victims was demanding ransom, but the case could be related to a clan feud.

Basilan Vice Gov. Al Pasdurul Jakaidani said he learned of the abduction on Monday and has immediately called for the activation of the Ungkaya Pukan crisis management committee.

"I was assured that all the captives are alive," he said.

Jakaidani agreed with Gumiran's statement that the abduction could be related to a clan feud between the victims and the suspects.

Saturday's abduction was the latest in a string of similar cases in Basilan in recent months.

On Nov. 15, a teacher and a principal were also abducted by gunmen in Lantuhan town.

The teacher, Marlyn Tacayan, was released by the suspects, but still unknown armed men in Lantuhan town.

Cecille Sosas, principal of Ilwas Elementary School, remained in their custody.

"Teachers are afraid and alarmed over the renewed kidnapping here, we also appeal to the kidnappers to free our colleagues, Mrs. Sosas. The kidnappers are just performing their tasks," said Jaleaz Tuasili, Basilan division schools superintendent. Jude E. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

'Pawikan' brings paradigm shift to villagers in Bataan

By Greg Bañaclave
Inquirer Central Luzon

MORONG, Bataan—Rey Manchan used to scour this town's coastline looking for "pawikan" (green sea turtle) eggs that he sold in his neighborhood or carried south to nearby Obrenque City or Olongapo shops in Bicentola, Manila.

On a good day, he could earn P300-P1,000 by selling the eggs at P5 apiece.

But Manchan is now a reformed man, having left the trade out of concern for his town's precious resource.

Now chair of the Barangay Pamilacan (Green Sea Turtle Watch), the 54-year-old Manchan and adults he and other residents recruited, the satisfaction they get from being volunteers for environment is enough to change their outlook.

Manchan and former poachers-turned-tourist guides Ronnie Ilustre, Ferdinand Pamilacan and Ronnie Ilustre,

Little League's big scandal: Cost of righting a wrong

From page A1

Shortly after the Zamboanga team routed California's Long Beach, 15-4, in Williamsport, Pennsylvania to become the first Filipino team to win the World Series, word started going around that the boys were older than 12, the age limit for Little League baseball.

Jose Torres, then Malaya columnist who was later in league press operations, and three business sports editor Al Mendoza suggested in print that the Filipinos were over-age. Tongues wagged from gambitos in Isabela. But no one came up with hard evidence.

Meanwhile, the losing Long Beach boys announced they were going to protest the outcome of the contest, saying the Filipino team were over the age limit—but still offering no proof.

Only 6 of 14

Proof of another irregularity came from the Little League administrator for the Philippines himself, Armando Andaya, responding to the inquiry of Little League International, admitted that only six of the 14 members of the Zamboanga squad were born that city.

The eight others were inducted from other teams, including Cotabato and Isabela. That was in violation of Little League rules stipulating that all members of a team should come from that district.

On the same day, Little League Baseball stripped the Zamboanga team of the title and awarded it by default to Long Beach.

Jaw-boned by businessmen and well-respected sports boosters, Andaya took full responsibility for the irregularities involved.

The disqualification raised a furor. The Senate called for an investigation; local officials of Zamboanga complained they were not given due process; the team's commercial sponsors were up in arms; and the general public cried foul.

People started looking for culprits and the first place they landed was the boys' team. It did not help that Mendoza, on a visit to Los Angeles, was assaulted the day

Little League strips Zambo nine of title

THE TRAGIC ending to a story that appeared to be too good to be true

to the city of Long Beach opposing for "exposing" the cheating.

Still the team's disqualification did not answer the nagging question: Were the boys overage?

That's what the Inquirer attempted to answer.

Name switching

In one of the rare occasions that she got involved in a story, Inquirer founding chair Eugenia Apostol ordered an honest-to-goodness investigation. She sent a team of editors in a meeting with officials and sponsors of Little League Baseball Philippines, some of whom were also executives from the telecommunications, airline and banking industries.

The meeting came up empty because not one of the Little League officials was willing to talk on record; neither was the Inquirer willing to go into the investigation and kill whatever story would come out of it.

By then, Carol Arguillas, then chief of the Inquirer's Mindanao bureau, had been dispatched to Zamboanga to do some detailing, along with a sister band man. Zamboanga correspondent Armand Nocum.

Together, they uncovered an elaborate scheme of vouchers, vouchers, passes and school and local government officials to induce students to lie about their ages and identities.

Thus, of the six players who kept their place for the Zamboanga team and went on to the National championship and later to the World Series, no one would be eligible to play Little League baseball. All six were 13-to-oldest, but they assumed the identities and carried the passports of boys who were under the age limit.

Name switching was the name of the game.

Zamboanga Six exposed

Arguillas and Nocum initially faced overwhelming odds. No one wanted to talk. Worse, they resulted in a hostile and noninvestigative government environment.

Nocum, though familiar with the turf, was purportedly vulnerable in the hostility of fellow Zamboangueños. He was receiving death threats.

But slowly the wall of silence broke down brick by brick.

The day got some help from the families of the boys who ousted the actual identities and from disgruntled coaches and players who were bumped off the original Zamboanga lineup to make way for budget-friendly ace from other districts, including Cotabato and Isabela. They all wanted a piece of the P1 million given by President Ramos.

The stories of the imposters' parents were as inconsistent as the boys' birth records. Some had fixed. School records did not match and, one by one, the real identities of the so-called Zamboanga Six were exposed.

Along the way, the Inquirer team assembled what it called "splendid evidence. They also literally dug up stories of baseball heroes of yesteryears who died of age in the graveyard, either dead or digging graves.

Golden Boy et al.

One such story was that of "Golden Boy," who starred from Zamboanga in the mid-1970s carrying the name Clarence Alvarez Jr.

When his playing days were over, he went through an identity crisis and when he suddenly died in a vehicular accident, no one knew his real name or his real age. His tomb bore no real name, and no dates or place of birth. Nameless to the end, he was identified on his tomb only as "Golden Boy."

Another story was that of Edgardo Alvarez. I first came across the name—and the name switching inherent—in the early 80s when I was a sportswriter for the defunct Philippine Daily Express. Covering the ASEAN Games Olympics, a four-way multi-sport competition involving the major services of the Armed Forces—the Army, Navy, Air Force, and the giant Philippine Constabulary (PC).

Alvarez was playing baseball for the Navy early two years after playing Little League for Zamboanga under another name.

The PC coach, baseball great Filemon "Boy" Gaditano Jr., lodged a protest against the Navy for fielding Alvarez. Gaditano knew him as Gil Manuel, the boy he coached in the Little League a couple of years back.

The scandal ended Alvarez's baseball career, and he returned to Zamboanga doing odd jobs. When the Inquirer team saw him in 1993, he was working in a grave digger.

It turned out Alvarez was not the only one who used the alias Manuel or Gil Manuel; then 11- month-or-older baseball players had low-ranked his birth certificate and never returned it. When he was interviewed by the Inquirer in

BLAST FROM THE PAST The Inquirer story on the "victorious" Philippine Little League baseball team

1992, he was a laughing heroes.

Not uncommon practice

Cheating in sports is not uncommon in the Philippines, especially in age group competitions. Coaches were known to have plucked local, underaged and even public hair from boys to ensure evidence of adolescence.

Football, basketball and even golf were not immune to this practice.

For years, the Philippine team dominated the Asian Youth basketball championship for players 19 and under. The inaugural tournament in 1976 saw such stars as William Wilkinson, Manuel Paner and Rosalio Muñoz carry the Philippines to the championship in a performance so overwhelming it raised doubts about the players' ages.

No one came up with proof they were overage but valiant I interviewed Muñoz's two years later, he said he was 26 years old. That would put him two years over the age limit in 1976.

6-part bomb

In early November 1992, a couple of months after the World Series, the Inquirer was ready to explode the bomb that was bound to sink to high heavens—a six-part series including how cheating was rewarded at every level of the Little League organization.

The Inquirer had dug up school and birth records and interviewed teachers, coaches, players, students, parents, relatives, classmates, former players, and former coaches. We also talked to officials of Little League Philippines and Little League Baseball International.

But we were faced with a dilemma. Did we want to inundate its of subscribers and readers and lose them? Or did we want to come out with the truth?

For Eggie Apostol, it was a no-brainer. The truth was supreme.

So on Nov. 6, 1992, Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc managed the imprimatur of the editor in chief on the series by writing the introduction under her byline. There was no doubt in her mind that the full business stood for the truth.

The six-part series started the next day. I wrote the first two articles and Arguillas and Nocum collaborated on the next five. Finally, the business came up with the inconvenient truth for the people.

The Senate committee on youth and sports development, which had concluded after several hearings that there was no factual or legal reason for stripping Zamboanga of the World Championship, ordered a reinvestigation. In the light of the boys ages in series, the committee headed by then Sen. Joey Lina was forced to reverse its findings.

Small price for truth

But the exposé came at a very painful price. Nocum, facing death threats and ostracized in his hometown as a traitor, had to flee Zamboanga and sizzled up in Manila.

Members, who did nothing more than raise doubts on the players' eligibility, was vilified in the media, by friends and foes. He woke up one morning to see his car vandalized in the parking lot.

And the business saw its circulation slump by tens of thousands and long before the Manila-inspired boycott, its advertising dip considerably.

It would take months for the papers to recover.

But for the Inquirer, it was a small price to pay for the truth.

IN THE KNOW

"A NICE Jewish boy from Brooklyn who rubbed hard to do battle with the evil dragons of the Philippines."

This was how former New York Rep. Stephen Joshua Solarz described himself in an interview in 1986, making a reference to his crusade against the Marcos regime.

A Democrat, Solarz was first elected to Congress in 1974, and served in the eight successive Congresses until 1993.

Solarz's chairmanship of the House subcommittee on Asian and Pacific affairs brought him to Cha-Pha Palace on Aug. 30, 1985, to meet with President Ferdinand Marcos in their anniversary. Solarz, the noted in front staff many an Indian government abuses were addressed and five observers were held. Marcos and his Cabinet were supposedly satisfied.

In his visit, Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo also supposedly asked Solarz if he had campaigned for Jose Diokno, Salvador H. Aquino Jr., who had been on exile in the United States, into the Philippines.

"I told him he could search my baggage and wouldn't see Ruel Aquino," Solarz said he told Romulo.

Three days after Solarz's meeting with Marcos, Aquino flew back to the country and was assassinated as he stepped off a China Airlines jetliner on his return from a three-year self-exile.

Solarz came back to examine with Aquino's widow, Corazon. Solarz subsequently called for reforms and urged the Reagan administration to distance itself from the Marcos dictatorship.

In 1986, Solarz held hearings on accusations that the Marcoses had invested more than $200 million in East Manhattan hotel and a long island estate.

Model for democracy

Public discontent in the Philippines escalated and culminated in the toppling of the Marcos regime during the Edsa People Power Revolution in February 1986, and the installation of Corazon Aquino as President.

In August last year, Solarz visited the country to attend the funeral of former President Corazon Aquino. In an interview, he said that the Edsa People Power Revolution has become a model in restoring democracy in other nations. *Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research*

Sources: United States Congress, New York Magazine archives; Asia New Times, 1988

Solarz, human rights champion, Pinoys' BFF, dies at 70

From page A1

er, he lost his seat in a dramatically redrawn Brooklyn district that he had covered since 1975).

Solarz's son-in-law Glen Frieden said the cause was complications from a bone marrow transplant he received in Washington after a four-year battle with cancer of the esophagus.

Frieden called Solarz a "great champion of human rights" and a "great opponent of repressive regimes."

Solarz became well-known for the war in 1986, when he held highly publicized hearings to prove that Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos had looted the Philippine treasury of millions of dollars to buy real estate in the United States. He led the congressional movement to withhold military aid in the Philippines until Marcos could be driven out and Corazon Aquino installed as the President.

During the hearings, Solarz accused Marcos of running a "kleptocracy" and snatching himself and his wife at the expense of his country's citizens.

Gulf War

A few years later, Solarz supported some with his willing, area to play a leadership role in authorizing the first Gulf War against Iraq.

Some thought because he had been an early opponent of the Vietnam War, he should have favored continuing sanctions in the Gulf—the position of the Democratic Party leadership.

Solarz, who was a senior member of the House foreign affairs committee, said at the time that the Gulf War was not comparable to Vietnam. Rather, it was more like World War II.

"I would imagine that the Kuwaitis must feel today exactly the way the French felt after the Nazi occupation ended," he said. "They probably did and relief, having hostile dropped on their homes and factories and fields but they know this was the price they had to pay to be liberated from the Nazis."

According to an obituary prepared by his family, during the debate on the war, Solarz said, "The great lesson of our time is that evil still exists, and when evil is on the march, it must be confronted."

Bank scandal

Though he was never charged, he was hunt by the House bank scandal, which erupted in March 1992, the House ethics committee cited Solarz as one of the 22 worst abusers in the scandal that forced the closing of the bank. He overdrew 743 checks in a 39-month period.

His wife, Nina Solarz, who survives, was fined $3,000 under reimbursement of self-interest.

Afterward, Solarz's political fortunes plunged when the House district was dismantled by congressional redistricting in New York and other northeast states overwhelmed seats to the states in the south and south-west after the 2000 Census.

His true passion was trying to preserve human rights around the world. Frieden said.

In 2001, while serving on the advisory commission on Asian and Pacific affairs, he helped develop a peace plan to end guerrilla in Cambodia. Also, as chair of the subcommittee on Africa, Solarz worked with President Jimmy Carter to negotiate US sanctions against the white-minority government of Rhodesia. It helped establish Zimbabwe.

Foreign affairs

His work in foreign affairs continued after Congress. He was president of Solarz Associates, an international consulting firm.

In 1999, he co-founded the International Crisis Group, a private, nongovernmental organization designed to strengthen the international community's ability to anticipate and prevent mass conflicts.

Born on Sept. 12, 1940, in New York City, Solarz earned a bachelor's degree from Brandeis University in 1962 and a master's degree in political science and government from Columbia University in 1967.

His formal political career began in 1966, when he managed one of the first antiwar congressional campaigns in the 1960's in Westchester. The candidate, Mel Dubin, lost, but Solarz met his future wife, Nina Glaser, during the campaign.

Two years later, Solarz was elected to the New York State Assembly from Brooklyn, and served there from 1969 to 1974. In the general incumbent Democratic Congressman Bert Podell in a primary.

Besides his wife, Solarz is survived by his mother, Ruth Solarz; brothers Arnold, Robert and Seth Solarz; stepbrothers Randy Glaser and Gary Glaser; and four grandchildren. *AP*

Palace to review setup of 3-headed communication group

From page A1

"We felt the need to tighten the way that we communicate to the public what we're now doing," Carandang said in a memorandum to Malacañang.

Many things that we've done over the last seven to nine months have not gotten the emphasis that we feel they deserve," he added.

Carandang admitted that breaking up the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS) under his office and Secretary Herminio Coloma's Presidential Communications and Operations Office was a factor in failing to get the desired results.

There's also presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda.

"We needed to get our acts together as far as communications is concerned," Carandang said.

Birthing pains

"We broke up the (OPS) and Secretary Coloma and I have to expand these two offices. It's a new structure so it has taken some time to get used to it," he said. "I think perhaps these birthing pains contributed to the lack of the message getting through in certain sectors."

Carandang believes the message of the administration against corruption and for economic progress must have been successfully relayed to the public given what he called an improvement in President Aquino's acceptance ratings.

"I wouldn't say that the message is not getting through. I'm saying that the message could probably be told with some consistency and perhaps a little bit more flair," Carandang said.

Pulse: 69% favor RH bill

From page A1

who don't have the means to afford them.

"[We] think it needs to done in tandem with prospective parents or parents that they have to respond to their responsibilities," the President said.

The Pulse Asia survey conducted using face-to-face interviews from Dec. 30 to 29, showed that 69 percent of Filipinos supported the RH measure.

The survey, results of which were released yesterday, also found that 66 percent of Filipinos were aware of the measure.

High awareness level

The high level of awareness ranged from 66 percent in The Visayas to 90 percent in Metro Manila, and from 72 percent among Class E to 95 percent among Class ABC.

Twenty percent learned about the bill while being interviewed for the survey.

Only 7 percent disagreed with the bill, while 24 percent were undecided on the matter.

The non-commissioned survey covered 1,200 respondents across the country and had a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

Support up 8 points

House Minority Leader Edcel Lagman said the survey "vindicates the dwindling influence of the Catholic hierarchy when it comes to persuading the faithful to useless modern methods of family planning."

He noted that the support for the measure had risen by 8 percentage points from 61 percent in January 2013.

The House committee on population and family relations continues its hearing on the RH bills today.

While the backing of Mr. Aquino, proponents have predicted the approval of the RH measure by the end of the first regular session of the 17th Congress in June next year.

Real majority

Another RH bill author, Ms. Janet Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, said the survey results showed "what's the real majority in the RH debate."

"We've always known that the bill has the firm support of the majority of Filipinos who believe in the full measure of their constitutional and pro-life principles. They, too, want to prevent the death of 11 women a day," Rep. he said.

Other lawmakers, however, scoffed at the results.

Informed opinion

Davao Rep. Isidro Ungab, author of a bill protecting the rights of the unborn child, wondered if those polled have read the RH bill's provisions.

"I understand at least 95 percent of the folks have not read the RH bill, those can someone who has not read the bill have an informed opinion on the bill?" Golez said.

He proposed that any survey how few ask respondents if they had read the measure, and if the answer is affirmative, then it should ask them whether or not they favored the bill.

Dangers

Bacolod City Rep. Anthony Golez, a medical doctor, said the survey showed that just as many Filipinos were not informed about the "dangers of health services" offered by the measure.

"More than half of the survivors in the survey [Anthony]," Golez said, referring to modern methods espoused by the bill that prevent pregnancy.

Davao City Rep. Karlo Nograles said: "I wonder if our countrymen actually agree with all provisions of the RH bill. Or just the concept of it [population management]." With reports from Inquirer research

Pope commends PH Church for prolife stance

ROME—Pope Benedict XVI on Monday said he "commended" the Philippine Catholic Church for its prolife stance and defense of the institution of marriage.

"I commend the Church in the Philippines for seeking to play its part in support of human life from conception on, til natural death, and in defense of the integrity of marriage and the family," Benedict said visiting Philippine bishops.

"In these areas you are promoting truths about the human person and about society which not only uphold the divine revelation but also from the natural law," he added.

Benedict said he appreciated "the Church's work to abolish the death penalty" and acknowledged the "encouraging commitment to the struggle against corruption."

Philippine President Aquino recently announced that the government would pay for contraception for the poorest couples in the decision 400,000—the latest salvo of in Southeast Asia. AFP

Metro Manila is '7-11 of disasters' for flooding, earthquakes

From page A1

assessment synthesis report.

A copy of the report, commissioned by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) with help from the World Bank, was given yesterday to the lawyers ahead of its release.

"The Philippines is prone to calamities because it is situated in the Pacific 'Ring of Fire.' We have volcanoes. We are in the typhoon belt, so we have many typhoons. We have floods, El Niño, La Niña. And it's where we are," said Jerome Aimquist, the Bangkok-based senior regional coordinator of UNISDR for Asia and the Pacific.

"We are the 7-11 of disasters—the convenience store of disasters," he stressed in a phone interview.

Ajmad's report was tackled during the closed-door consultative meeting for parliamentarians on disaster risk reduction (DRR) convened in Manila last week by Rizalenta Maldonado of Sweden, DRR assistant secretary general, and Sen. Loren Legarda, the UNISDR advocate of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

This gives reality for about 12 million people of the country's highly congested metropolis compiled parliamentarians, who met for three days to Manila last week, in total are exposed to "Manila Call for Action 2018."

The communique detailed several concrete steps to actively pursue efforts to reduce risks and vulnerabilities in Manila and elsewhere in Southeast Asia, and compel governments to undertake disaster-resilient development.

No. 1 in overall risks

The early days of the flood-prone capital of the Philippines is followed by Jakarta (Indonesia), Bangkok (Thailand), Ho Chi Minh and Hanoi (both in Vietnam).

Metro Manila is also the No. 1 city most at risk of earthquake, followed by Jakarta, Rangoon in Burma (Myanmar), Bangkok and Hanoi, the report said.

Metro Manila also ranked "highest" in the assessment of the "overall risks" from three natural hazards (typhoon, earthquake, tsunami), flood, epidemics, landslide, drought, volcanic eruption and storm surge.

Next came Jakarta, Rangoon, Ho Chi Minh, Bangkok, Hanoi, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Singapore (Burma), Phnom Penh (Cambodia), Vientiane (Laos) and Bandar Seri Begawan (Brunei).

Although not yet made public, the exclusive report was officially presented by Velasquez on Oct. 25 to the heads attending the special risk assessment in Bucharest, South Korea.

UNISDR hired Risk Management Inc. based in India to undertake the risk assessment.

Turbo-charged

Relevant portions of the report were also echoed by Emmanuel de Guzman, a UNISDR consultant, at the Manila meeting. People in the Asia-Pacific region, he said, are most at risk of disasters—four times more than those in Africa and 25 times more than people in European Republic countries.

Climate change, also dubbed as global warming, is caused by a host of factors with the massive concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere as the chief culprit, resulting in rising global temperatures and sea levels.

"These natural risks are being changed by climate change, which will magnify the disaster impact on the poor and most vulnerable sectors," Legarda said the gathering.

In a press release, Legarda said that parliamentarians from the 18 nations were going back to their countries with a "common mission to undertake several concrete actions towards disaster resilient development."

"Knowing that disaster risks and climate change do not respect boundaries, they pledged to be agents of change and form a coalition of parliamentarians at the national, regional and international levels to actively pursue disaster risk reduction," she said.

"They also committed to enhance their knowledge and capacity through forums for sharing knowledge, information, and best practices of countries. Furthermore, they also committed to lobby for an increase in national budgets for disaster risk reduction initiatives and to facilitate direct access to international funds intended for climate change adaptation for localities," Legarda said. With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Jocelyn Uy and AFP

Lotto winner still has to claim ₱741 million

From page A1

Lotto 6/55, said the PCSO had no idea about the winner of the biggest pot ever since for the fact that the person had planned his or her bet somewhere in Luzon.

Later in the day Llave-Gabaya, PCSO assistant general manager, said the bettor's ticket, a lucky pick, was purchased in Olongapo, Zambales province.

"It was bought in the day pa, sa sa the draw," Gabaya said.

She said the winner would be given one check for the full jackpot, minus no tax fees.

In digital diction about the integrity of the process of picking winners, Jones said she was open to revealing the PCSO personnel and allowing the winning tickets to be made public.

"That can be done. I don't see any problem with that," Jones told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

Frenzy

In a country where one in three people live on a dollar a day, the lottery created a frenzy as the jackpot slowly built from mid-September when no winners in 46-consecutive draws.

"The number of bettors grew as the pot increased," said Manny Nolasco, an accountant at the Bataan Zambales lottery office.

"Many have been betting on sign to the number combinations at a time, instead of just one."

Jones acknowledged concerns that the process of picking winners might be rigged in the absence of greater transparency.

"We can never be sure until he or she presents himself," she said. "But on the part of the PCSO, we have a process of verifying winning tickets presented to us by lucky bettors."

Triple driver

Yesterday morning, for instance, a tricycle driver in Iligan City arrived with his wife at the PCSO office at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City to claim his ₱16 million prize.

Jones said the lucky couple took only around 30 minutes to receive their check from Lotto officials at the Philippines's capital before returning home as instant millionaires.

Winning tickets are verified by the PCSO's internal audit department, after which the lottery department will issue a check to be signed either by the agency's chairman or general manager. A photo is taken of the winner receiving the check from a PCSO official.

Jones said winners could deposit the check at the Landbank branch at the PCSO. She said remaining the full amount was also an option.

Amid questions about the security of lotto winners, she said she was more concerned about how many would actually avail the prestige and being of winners.

Ultimate losers

"Of course, I'm happy for to be winners are usually 'losers'," Jones said. "But I'm worried that the instant millions would make their lives more miserable."

Other cases of instant millionaires who turned to unsettling changes and other woes, served Archbishop Oscar Cruz and lotto winners were "with mostly the loser."

"I wouldn't want any of my friends to win that much money because I'm sure it would change their lives," he told the Inquirer.

"When you win, you will have to worry about so many things. You will gain many friends, but also enemies. You will be in constant fear of being robbed or kidnapped." With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Jocelyn Uy and AFP

PDI reporter fears for life over reckless Tim Yap tweet

From page A1

may flashed on the Inquirer.net website, and via SMS and Twitter.

A call in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office turned up dead—which assisted there was no winner since betters were hidden the past 10 draws—140 degrees. "There is a winner from Luzon," PCSO assistant general manager Lizzie Gabaya told me.

Adrenaline rush

The adrenaline rushed through my veins. I told myself: the one in a 29 million chance did exist. It was the odds a person must battle to win the top prize.

I called up the duty editor to inform him that there was a winner, and that I would file a story shortly. I rehashed a draft I prepared last week.

I sent a one-line e-mail to my Twitter operator stating "The winner from Luzon confirmed."

Minutes later, I filed the story, headed home and called it a night.

Unthinkable

Then the unthinkable happened.

"Did you really write the Grand Lotto?" was the first line my mother had told me as he rang my phone.

"Yeah? I didn't even get a chance to place my bet," I replied.

"You should tune in to #Bgy 89 Overseas people are saying that you said you will retire to the Old rachis stations only to announcement.

Call from mother

My mother was the second person to call me up. She posed the same question. I gave her the same answers, and she said my error was being asked by her friends about Monday night's draw. My mother passed the phone to my sister, who said her friends had learned about the announcement via Twitter.

I stumbled profanities and curses on my way home. Once there, I immediately logged onto my social networking accounts. To my surprise, what my friends, mentor and sister had told me was no fool joke; people took the information as gospel truth.

Stream of messages

I had over 100 people I never or sporadically ever sensing me to add them as a "friend," while a stream of congratulatory messages flooded my inbox. I told myself the situation was getting out of hand.

The first thing I did was to stunning reporters while replying to concerned friends who exerted efforts in trying to clear the misconceptions. The reality even reached a couple of my friends based overseas who also tried to clarify the issue by sending text messages.

I discovered who the culprit was.

Reactions from Twitterverse:

[illegible] his name is Mike Morales around #Bgy89 #Antipolo [illegible] #Antipolo [illegible] #Breaking

Chad Nicholas Ong: PCSO announced Mike Morales? ARE U KIDDIN ME??

Jennifer: Sis hyping in Ky yang Mike Morales na yan!

Mhaeveelous: Ngayon pa lang nanood ng Mike Morales na yan! Sige nga! Sino ba sa inyo ang nakakakilala kay Mike Morales? ARE U KIDDIN ME???

Jennifer: Sis hyping in Ky yang Mike Morales na yan!

Mhaeveelous: Ngayon pa lang nanood ng Mike Morales na yan! Sige nga! Sino ba sa inyo ang nakakakilala kay Mike Morales?

Jennifer: pictures na sa record of the winner of Lotto, sabi ng wife ko, sa Antipolo daw

Antony Jordan: ehh sa [illegible]

Jennifer: Mike Morales, mentor ko sa social studies right now... Tim Pacana, kapwa-intern ng ang pagkamot

Compiled by Inquirer Research

He tried to clarify the matter when he tweeted: "Okay, hallmark guess started about the winner of the lotto jackpot—I received reports that Mike Morales is the Inquirer reporter who reported about the lotto. Not necessarily the winner #worrymeandmakeupfalsie."

(I personally find the hashtags contentious burdening on the traditions.)

Tim Yap

Apparently, it was yesterday hour Tim Yap who brandied me the winner in his tweet a few hours earlier.

"He on, PCSO confirms one winner—his name is Mike Morales. He gets to take home the P741 million Grand Lotto 6/55 Jackpot! #Imagine that!" he said in his Twitter account (@timyapinq, like this).

"The first thing that crossed my mind was how clueless Yap was on the subject. The PCSO does not disclose the identity of any winner for obvious security reasons.

What was appalling was the hundreds of people falling for the fake information. They even set up a fan page on Facebook encouraging me to spread the money, solely not taking seriously the clarifications from the Inquirer Twitter account and "Mr. Bigshot reporter" Tim Yap himself.

Yap continued with his tweets: "And guess what? Mike Morales is an honest #media-mention. I already sent a request. He procured his winning already. Fabulous!hahaha," dreamt-up Tim Yap said.

He tried to clarify the tweets when he tweeted: "Okay, hallmark guess started about the winner of the lotto jackpot—I received reports that Mike Morales is the Inquirer reporter who reported about the lotto. Not necessarily the winner #worrymeandmakeupfalsie."

(I personally find the hashtags contentious burdening on the traditions.)

Damage done

The damage had been done.

My mother called me up practically admonishing me for the chauvinism of my tweets up-posted to be monitored that I won the jackpot, no matter how much they detailed due information.

With the desperate times as indicated by the steps to petty crimes as the arrests, I feared for our safety.

I commute to work from our house and the dangers of public transport are as obvious as the color of the sky. My family, likewise, does the same.

Precautions

I've taken precautions to salvage what was left of my identity in my social networking accounts, claiming a copyright infringement on my part for the unauthorized use of my name on the Facebook pages (including the one that's supporting me for the sake of a level playing field).

What bothers me is how people take information at face value, not bent reading or even processing those bits to form a coherent thought. Is this a sign of the times that people aren't thinking critically anymore?

I hope not.

(And even if I did win the jackpot, you probably wouldn't see my byline tomorrow.)

SPORTS
Editor Tedoro S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Delos
Text or photo hotline
Inquirer text service/sports message # 4801
Mobile
E-mail

Ali Reyes (left) of Powerade will have to contend with TNT's Rich Alvarez again tonight.

Cellar-dwellers tangle in PH Cup elims today

By Marang R. Castillo

TEAMS IN danger of taking early Christmas vacations plunge into another weekday to snap long losing streaks and keep their chances of hope alive in the PBA Philippine Cup eliminations at the Araneta Coliseum.

Coffee-dwelling Barako Bull clashes with Meralco at 5 p.m., looking to duplicate one of its two wins in their 11 games, before Rosyn-sole hustles a Talk 'N Text side that will welcome back Kelly Williams and coach Chot Reyes at 7:20.

Both squads are the deadest underdogs and their chances aren't helped one bit by the fact that their foes are also looking for wins that would enhance their positions in the playoffs, particularly Tropang Texters will in this morning for the second twice-to-beat slot.

The Tigers are reeling from five straight losses, while the Energy Boosters have not gotten any luck in their last six games.

And Barako will be coming into the game looking to win a fourth straight, though the 8-finger assistance of their first reflation with the Bossers are not pleasant, with Barako Bull the first team to inflict them a loss in their young PBA existence.

Barako Bull needs to sweep its last three games, and the same could be said of the Tigers, who are a game ahead of the Boosters but are a full game out of the eighth and final spot that would advance to the playoffs.

The Tropang Texters, meanwhile, need to win the game tonight to move to 6-4 to stay with idle Rain or Shine, which is currently in second spot at 8-3.

Both teams will still clash near the end of the eliminations, making it important for Talk 'N Text to contend with the Elite Rhinos until that time.

Meralco is already in the playoffs, and the only thing to be determined for the 8 Boys is their ranking as a stroke of bad fortune could still drop them to the seventh and eighth slots.

Star Cinema will as usual lead the 5 Boys, who will also be embracing back Asi Taulava even as rumors abound that Sunday billboard-topping Mixer in San Miguel from Barako Bull to exchange for Lordy Tugade.

WE WILL BEAT ANY PRICE.
WE BLOCK THE HEAT FOR:
HEAT REJECTION SECURITY & PRIVACY FILMS
TINTROOM.COM
3M
L.A. Car Accessories & Tint Room
817-0017 • 214-8787 • 813-8366 • 813-2338
FAX: 813-2338 (OPEN DAILY 10AM - 7PM)

Manny could earn ₱3B vs Floyd–Chavit

By Ray Luarca

IF MANNY Pacquiao–Floyd Mayweather Jr. pushes through, the Filipino ground-breaking novel isn't fight again.

He says some eight away according to Bora Boy Cabuco Siegarra, one of Pacquiao's closest advisers, after the victory party he tendered for the world's best boxer at his Cotabato fan-dom mansion in Quezon City Monday night.

Siegarra estimates that the fight with Mayweather could see the eight-time, eight-division champion P30 million (about $75 billion), $50 million in guaranteed purse and $10 million in pay-per-view shares.

But if Mayweather continues to balk at having Pacquiao, Siegarra said the Sarangani congressman needs two or three more fights before ending his illustrious ring career.

And the leading candidates are Shane Mosley and Juan Manuel Marquez.

Siegarra shrugged off other opponents like Andre Berto, saying Pacquiao stands to make less money in such fights.

After trumbling Pacquiao's 12-round demolition of Antonio Margarito on Nov. 13 at the Cowboys Stadium in Texas, Siegarra said he advised Pacquiao not to fight at over 154 pounds.

"Manny didn't really have a hard time against Margarito, but it's risky. At 154 pounds, a knockout [any eye Margarito's like an elephant while he is only a cowboy]."

With legal issues hounding Mayweather, Siegarra is hopeful that the American will run out of money and be forced to fight Manny.

US court holds part of Pacquiao purse

ARLINGTON superior yesterday that a Texas court has issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) ordering that $1.5 million of his purse from the recent fight against Margarito be held after a Filipino promoter sued Pacquiao for over $1.18 million in damages on Nov 11.

In Arlington's state of Superior Court, it was alleged that Pacquiao signed a contract to make promotional appearances in Moffett, Texas, in September. As Pacquiao was already in training there, he was unable to fulfill the contract.

Pacquiao's chief Gerald Franklin "Jerry" Gracel said a US-based lawyer is handling the case. With a report from Ronnie Mathamalin

Francisco stops Thai, claims WBA interim super fly crown

FILIPINO PROSPECT Dinas Francisco endured a tough and bruising battle with Duangpetch Eskbrygym yesterday before knocking out the Thai veteran and taking the interim World Boxing Association super flyweight title at a makeshift ring at an open football field in Buang Kan, Thailand.

The unbeaten Francisco caught Eskbrygym with a right cross and then landed an uppercut as the Thai was going down in the 10th round to seal his 11th knockout in 20 wins and one draw, according to Jarmen Snyder of Bluecheesesport.com.

Despite the Thai's roughhousing tactics, Francisco also scored two knockdowns in the sixth round. The first through a left hook, right uppercut combination midway of the round and the second with a right hook toward the end of the round.

The 28-year-old Eskbrygym, who was docked a point in the sixth round for intentional low blows, dropped to 32-2-1 with 23 knockouts.

With his successful foreign debut, Francisco avenged eight other Filipino fighters who were victims of Eskbrygym, and earned the right to challenge WBA super flyweight king Hugo Cazares on March 5.

The 27-year-old Francisco, who hails from Tublajanes, Cleveland Mindoro, ends the first two rounds with his pinpoint jabs, but Eskbrygym was able to penetrate his defenses and get the edge in the third round.

It was a gutsy performance by the 5-foot-5 Francisco, who entered the fight as a 6-5 underdog.

THE Washington Wizards' JaVale McGee (top) collides with the Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade under the basket. REUTERS

'Birds of prey' forge duel

Eagles, Falcons rip foes, vie for Champs' League title

By Cedrik F. Tapas

ATENEO, putting emphasis on defense, turned back University of Cebu, 74-64, yesterday to forge a finals duel with Adamson in the Philippine Collegiate Champions League at the SM Mall of Asia in San Juan.

The Eagles gave up 20 points in UC-Lemuajo Jose Mari Ogbuehi but clamped down on the rest of the Webmasters to stay on track of a second straight win and a third crown in four years.

The Falcons spoiled an all-Cebu championship duel and secured their first finals appearance in the competition with a 67-59 trouncing of the Archers in the second game.

Alex Mejides hauled 13 points, despite missing all of his seven three point shots, while Eric Camaso chipped in 12 as the Falcons flashed one of its early double-digit leads to continue their mastery of the Archers this season.

"We gained confidence when we beat them in the Dad," said Adamson coach Leo Austria. "We're hungry and we really wanted to win the tournament for the school."

The Falcon (18 Bajarlo, who bagged off from joining the national team last year, made 12 of his 20 shots and grabbed 15 rebounds, despite Ateneo's double-teaming defense in the post.

But Bajarlo was hobbled by foul trouble in the second half, committing his fourth transgression in a 23-rebound effort and got little help from his teammates.

"We just wanted to make it difficult for him (Bajarlo) to score but at the same time not allow the other players to get a lot of good looks," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "If he got his 20 points, we're fine only that as long as we were the game."

The Archers were looking to follow up their resounding 84-74 victory of San Beda in the quarterfinals Monday.

And Lo Sallo got off to a strong start with Ateneo Athletics helping the Archers grab a 13-9 buffer in the first eight minutes. But Adamson opened the second quarter with a 13-4 run, behind Nicolas and Rodolfo Sam Cabrera.

PURGE Villanueva (left) of La Salle smothers a layup from store by Adamson's Allen Mayles. ARNOLD ALMACEN

Heat score

MIAMI—LeBron James scored 38 points, Dwyane Wade added 28 as the Miami Heat pulled away steadily to beat Washington 103-94 on Monday, keeping the Wizards winless away from home this season.

Chris Bosh finished with 20 for the Heat, who won for just the second time in their past six games. James got Miami going with 20 in the first half, Wade then helped seal the win with 22 in the second half.

It was the 100th regular-season win for Heat coach Erik Spoelstra, in his 182nd game.

Andray Blatche scored 26 points and had nine rebounds for Washington, which is 0-8 on the road. Gilbert Arenas added 23 for Washington. AP

Smart Gilas five's MVP not giving up on Olympic dream

By Jane Manaois

SAMSUNG SMARTPHONE 19 Philippines president Manny V. Pangilinan is not giving up on the Smart Gilas Olympic dream.

The 6'9" five, a squad made up mostly of former collegiate standouts, finished a mere sixth in the Guangzhou Asian Games men's basketball competition—marking the country's 1966 Bangkok performance, its lowest finish in the event.

"What I can promise is we will try our best to qualify in the Olympics," said Pangilinan's powerful in the PBA Forum.

"I don't want to lose hope."

Health is a top concern on having a competitive Smart Gilas team.

"We were quite unlucky," said Pangilinan, referring to injuries that struck power forward Japeth Aguilar (knee) and guard Ted Mercado (feet) during the Asiad.

"We'll sit down with coach Jimmy Alapag [Swamax] and [assistant coach] Chot [Reyes] and see what went wrong and what went right as well. We'll try to improve our chances," added Pangilinan.

The 6-foot-9 Aguilar missed the entire series due to a partial tear on the ligament of his right knee.

WHY PAY

Ariza willing to help; PH boxers get Asiad bonus

By Ronnie Nathaniel

FLYING FOR FLIPPED king Manny Pacquiao's strength and conditioning guru Alex Ariza said yesterday he would "gladly help" the country's amateur boxing hopefuls in their quest for the country's first Olympic gold medal at the London Games in 2012.

Ariza said he would be willing to meet with officials of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines headed by its chair Manny Pangilinan and president Ricardo during a planned visit here for Pacquiao's birthday on Dec. 17.

Ariza, who handles several other top class fighters such as WBA light welterweight champion Amir Khan, indicated he would have to work out a schedule during a break for his big name professional boxers.

Pangilinan made the announcement in a special edition of the Philippine Sportswriters Association forum at the Dragon Inn restaurant on Roxas Boulevard where he handed over the promised incentives to the boxers who won medals at the recent Asian Games in Guangzhou.

Pangilinan gave flyweight gold medal winner Rey Saludar P5 million, silver medalist Mercito Gesta P1 million and Rey's younger brother Mercito, the light flyweight bronze medalist, P500,000.

'Rambulan' slated

PAYSONTHEWALL got his 4-peated 8-0 semi-boss style today when the "Rambulan 2 National 5-Stop Derby" semifinal round gets going at San Juan Coliseum.

Among the top qualifiers from a field of 184 are Clenton Ayo of Bicol, Ralph Cadiz of Rizal, Gov. Eddie Bong Plaza, Dibi Ganzarolin, Dad Sampombo, Jun-Jun Tobia Dumalia, Dhee Zambo, Rolly Mabilo, Mayor Jose Pangandian and derby host Rodolfo Pineda among others.

Meanwhile, interested shooters can still register to join the 2010 Rambulan on Dec. 4 and 5. For details, call 7254388 and 7268883.

We'll keep fighting, Saludars say

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

REY SALUDAR, 2010 Asian Games gold medalist in boxing, Vic Saludar, 2010 Asian Games bronze medalist in boxing, Pilots to say their many years' labors will produce boxing medals for the Philippines?

Perhaps even an Olympic gold medal.

Not too many people know that brothers Rey and Vic were chosen and prayed for by a dozen nuns and their parents as they fought in Guangzhou, but maybe this there are 14 children in the Saludar family, and it is likely that more boxers will emerge from the brood. Considering the boxerless Mosey, time and the boxers of having served the country.

Rey Saludar received P1 million from PLDT/Smart's chief Manny V. Pangilinan, while his brother Vic got P500,000, for their Asiad feats. It's now doesn't matter if the Saludars' parents are both jobless.

* * *

Needless to say, with all that cash [including another cool million reserved by Rey from the government] the Saludars now possess, money will no longer be a problem for the family, especially if they invest it wisely.

However, for boxing president Ricky Vargas, the Saludars' newfound wealth could be the source of trouble.

"All that money could make the boxers lose their focus. It could distract them from their training. They may no longer be so motivated as they were before the windfall," Vargas said.

In remember's special edition of the PSA Forum, Rey Saludar made a pledge to MVP and Ricky that he would stay focus, regardless of the money he earn has.

His brother Vic and lady boxer Irene Villamin, who acted all throughout the session, made the same pledge. Annie won a silver medal but everyone thought it should have been a gold.

Gravely disappointed with the result, Annie announced that she was quitting boxing, not because she couldn't land the gold, but because her eyesight was blurring.

* * *

"Our long term goal is to qualify for the 2012 Olympics," said Ricky during the intimate welcome dinner for the boxers last Saturday night held simultaneously with the birthday celebration of Ricky's son Mico at the Arena residence in Greenfield Village, Mabalacat.

Mico is the grandson-in-law of popular socialite Baby Arenas.

I saw the twinkle in Ricky's brown eyes as he spoke of the world's biggest sporting event.

"We intend to get help from experts like Freddie Roach," Ricky declared in response to my observation. He said they had already sought his help earlier. The boxers were up in Baguio where Manny Pacquiao was training, and Pacquiao looked the boxers over one by one. He chose Charly Suarez for his personal project.

"Charly may have failed to win a medal in the Asian Games, but he could win one in the Olympics. That's how it is in boxing," said Ricky who has learned much about the sport in the last two years, from the time that he hesitantly accepted the slap presidency.

Frankly, I've never seen him so hyped up. He even cited a PH Rep minute) his weekend six hours in during the boxing finals.

"The boxers are the best possible training," he witnessed during the PSA forum yesterday.

Indito Ronnie Nathaniel is worried on two areas. He immediately made an announcement in Pacquiao's mission when he ask if he was willing to train the PH team for major events leading to the Olympics. Arias said he was willing and able.

"They're young enough so he is in the Olympics, but with the prize that they have, I hope they won't become complacent," said Vargas, referring to the country's Asian Games winners.

Rey Saludar got the biggest incentive, receiving P5 million from Pangilinan, aside from the P1 million reward under Republic Act 9064.

"I'm focused on preparing for the Olympics," said the 23-year-old Bataan native Saludar, Jr. said.

PRO-GYM
WORLD-CLASS EQUIPMENT TO MATCH YOUR BUDGET!
www.progymequipment.com
CALL or Text or Email QUOTATION & PRICE LIST
SEPTEMBER INC.

China haul has Abap wanting more

By Cedrik F. Tapas

ON THE heels of a productive campaign in the Asiad Games, the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines yesterday pledged to leave no stone unturned in preparing the country's fighters for the 2012 London Olympics, where the country's sole medal-producing event is the gold medal.

ABAP sent six boxers to the Asiad Games and collected one gold, through flyweight Rey Saludar, one silver, courtesy of lone female boxer Annie Albania, and one bronze, thanks to light flyweight Mercito Saludar.

"The Asian Games was just an eye opener," said Manny V. Pangilinan, the ABAP chairman, said yesterday at a special session of the PSA Forum at the Dragon Inn restaurant.

ABAP president Ricky Vargas said the Asiad medals do not guarantee boxers a spot in the Olympics.

Soar High on the Wings of Privilege on the Premier Side of the Makati CBD

At Three Central, life starts when off. Personal with the best, most prestigious location on the financial side of Ayala Avenue, you fly from place to place, and from pleasure to pleasure. Skip the mad dash to work and simply stroll to BDO Plaza, GT Tower International or Ayala Life FGU Center next door. Step into the heart of the action at nearby Greenbelt, where the glamorous, non-stop and delicious converge. And inside your luxury home, luxuriate yourself in a unique, pampering culture.

Soar high in a place that puts you on top of the world. Three Central.

BE KING OF MAKATI'S POWER CENTER.

- A 36-story luxury address set along Valero Street in Salcedo Village, on the financial side of the Makati CBD
- Close to BDO Plaza, GT Tower International, Ayala Life FGU Center and the Greenbelt leisure district
- Your choice of pre-furnished executive studios or one-bedroom units
- Seventh-level amenity area with a swimming pool complex, children's playground, outdoor spa, garden, arboretum park, multipurpose and fitness pavilion, urban center, pre-function waiting area, outdoor and alfresco seating areas, a cultural exhibits, gym, day care center, business suites and function rooms
- Two-level retail arcade at the podium

All residences are PRE-FURNISHED.
Own a Lifestyle of success in the most exclusive of locations.

Information Center is open everyday, 9 AM to 9 PM.
8737 Paseo de Roxas Ave. corner Salcedo St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.

For inquiries, please call

856-4219 • 0915-4794078

Or e-mail makati.salesservice@megaworldcorp.com

A Premier Residential Development of

MEGAWORLD

www.megaworldcorp.com

Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

DID YOU KNOW

ON COMMEMORATION of the birth of Andres Bonifacio, Nov. 30 was declared a legal holiday by virtue of Act No. 2948 which was enacted by the Philippine Legislature on Feb. 10, 1921.
Arnaldo Dandan, Inquirer Research

GPS device installed in cargo truck leads police to 4 hijacking suspects in Manila

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A GLOBAL positioning system (GPS) device installed in a cargo truck led to the arrest yesterday of four men who were caught by the police in the act of transferring the truck's contents to another vehicle.

Recovered from Christina Candelario, Paulo Amoin, Rogelio Temporosa and Pael Flores were 91 million worth of Colgate-Palmolive products which they had taken from a Red Cargo Logistic Corp. cargo truck.

The vehicle was on its way to the company's warehouse in Pandacan City after it dropped off items at a branch in Pasay City when it suddenly appeared headed for Manila, based on the GPS tracking device.

Manila Police District (MPD) commander Supt. Roderick Mariano said that at this point, Red Cargo operatives manage together the case to them for help.

Mariano added that when the truck was located in Pier, Manila, they conducted dragnet operations and caught the four men in the act of transferring the vehicle's contents to another truck at around 1:15 a.m. yesterday.

The four were arrested after they failed to produce the required documents for the cargo.

Police bust gang of thieves

By Nancy C. Carvajal

POLICEMEN yesterday busted a gang of motorcycle-riding thieves with the arrest of six of its members during a raid on the group's hideout in Caloocan City.

During the operation, the police also recovered 13 stolen motorcycles and a 9 mm pistol, according to Chief Supt. Benjamin Mendiola, Quezon City Police District (QCPD) director.

Mendiola called the arrests a "huge success" in their crackdown against robberies and other crimes carried out by motorcycle-riding men following an increase in these cases.

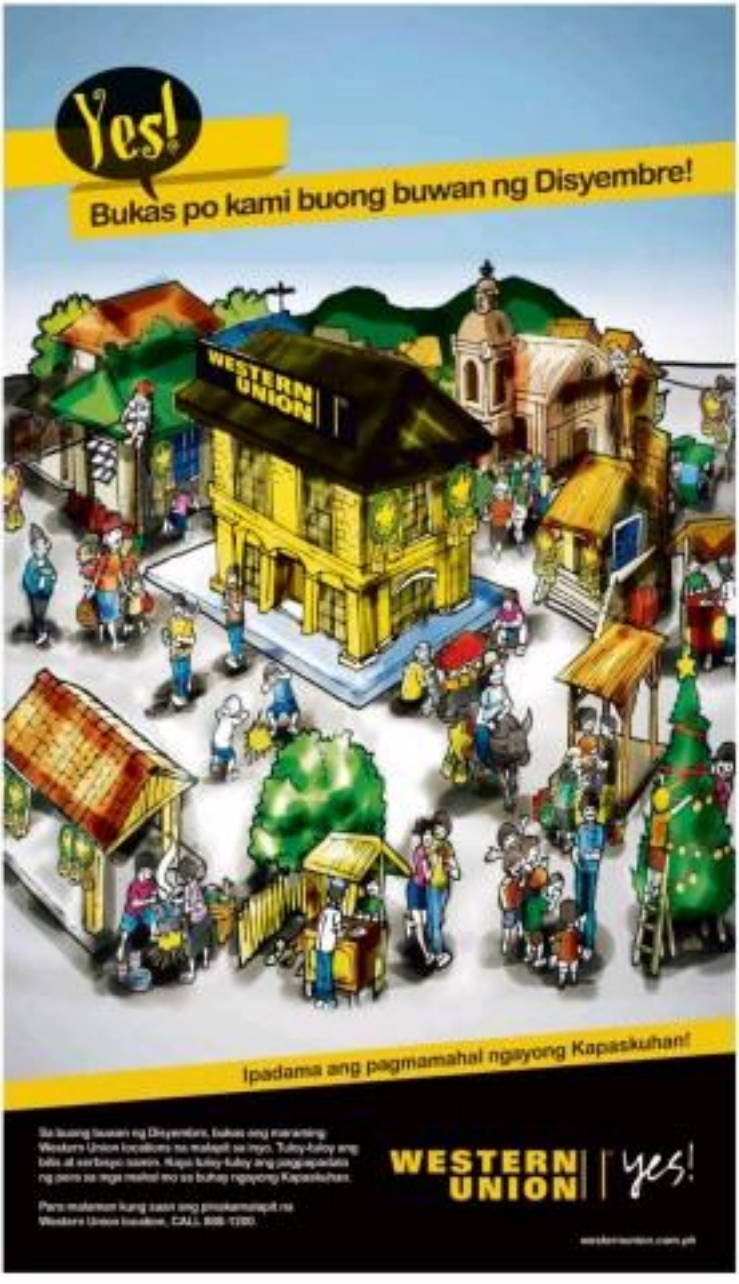
He identified those arrested as Salvador Bendoy, 25; Reynaldo Dimkulan, 25; Hernandez Solon, 26; Anthony Pinlac, 33; Arthur Bolong, 49, and Jesus Ong Bolong, 39.

Based on a report from QCPD Station 7, Bendoy was arrested at around 4:40 a.m. on First corner Main Avenues in Cubao, Quezon City.

He said a man he identified only as Rudy went on separate motorcycles when they

POLICE Ala

QCPD director Chief Supt. Benjamin Mendiola mans the 13 stolen motorcycles found in a robbery gang's hideout in Caloocan City. INQUIRER



ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
Alive up in Ilocos
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
GALLERIA
MANILA
METRO EAST
NOVALICHES
FORUM ROBINSONS
STA. ROSA
LIPA
DASMARIÑAS
STARMILLS
IMUS
ANGELES
TACLOBAN
DUMAGUETE
BACOLOD
ILOILO
GENSAN
ILOCOS NORTE

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
THEATRE MALL
PROMENADE

Bonifacio Day commemorated

By Kristine Felizze Marquez and Jayrose E. Gaerlan

THE CITIES of Manila and Caloocan yesterday marked the 147th birth anniversary of revolutionary hero Andres Bonifacio with wreath-laying ceremonies and short programs.

At the Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan City, around 200 government employees, residents and members of socio-civicoriented groups attended the flag-raising ceremony which started at around 7 a.m.

Organizers were surprised at the size of the group since they expected only a few people to show up, considering that yesterday was not a holiday.

"We were not expecting this many people to come over today," Marylou Inis Buenaventura, officer in charge of the city's Cultural Affairs and Tourism Office (Cats), said.

Some important figures, however, were conspicuously absent, including Caloocan Mayor Recto Echiverri and relatives of the revolutionary hero.

The traditional wreath-laying rites began at 8 p.m. with the participation of members of the Knights of Columbus and representatives of the University of the East High School Alumni Association, Iglesia Watawat ng Lahi, National Historical Commission, the city government and police officials led by Caloocan police chief, Senior Supt. Julio Saraza.

In Manila, the celebration of Bonifacio's birth anniversary centered on a short program held by the city government at the Bonifacio Shrine in front of city hall and presided over by a military group and Philippine Airline (PAL) employees.

"Bonifacio grew up in Tondo so we see that not all those who grow up in Tondo are troublemakers. We give him importance because of the struggles he endured for the Philippines," Lim said in Filipino.

He reminded students to emulate the shining example of Bonifacio.

The program was attended by Esperidiona Bonifacio Guerrero, the hero's youngest sister.

Meanwhile, members of Samahan ng Mangggagawa (samba) in Marikina to ask Filipinos to "fight corruption instead (and) oppose globalization." With them were PAL Employees Association members.

Police ...

From page A15

were flagged down by policemen manning a checkpoint in the area.

Instead of stopping, Bonifacio and Rudy sped away, leading to a chase.

The police finally caught up with Rosales, but Rudy (also Rosales claimed) was the leader of the group, managed to escape by ditching the motorcycle and running on foot.

During questioning, Rosales told the police where the group's hideout was, prompting them to conduct follow-up operations.

Earlier, he confessed to the police that they had just delivered three stolen motorcycles to a buyer and were on their way back to the group's hideout at Phase 12, Riverside, Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, when they were flagged down by the police.

Meanwhile, meanwhile, urged people who had their motorcycles stolen to go to the QCPD headquarters to check if any of the recovered vehicles could be theirs.

With Kristine Felizze Marquez

METROBRIEFS

Stop demolition, court asked

SAN Jacinto City residents have asked a judge to stop Mayor Rachel Bacolod-Ines from tearing down their houses to give way to the C5 extension project, in a petition for a temporary restraining order filed with Judge Lucilo Cortez of the Bacoor City Regional Trial Court Branch 84. residents of Lucas Avenue in Barangay Dulo asked the court to stop the demolition of their houses in Purok 1 and 2. Bacolod was named as respondent, along with the Department of Public Works and Highways' National Capital Region office and Marlowe Jacalne of the Bacoor City Task Force on Construction Prevention of Illegal Structures. The petitioners—Cirilo Manalo, Cristeta Cuida, Bibiganda Manlac, Jesus Catag and Rodrigo Madrazalina—said they were representing 62 residents from the two areas.

Julie M. Aurelio

Man nabbed for shoplifting

A 24-YEAR-OLD jobless man landed in jail on Monday night after he allegedly went shopping at a mall in Mandaluyong City Jaybird Columbiano, 24, was arrested for stealing more than P10,000 worth of clothes and accessories at the SM Megamall after a security guard caught him and turned him in, PO2 Emmanuel Hermino of the Mandaluyong police said. He was later charged with theft at the city prosecutor's office.

Nikko Dizon

Rap vs elderly

A CHARGE of physical injuries was filed before the city prosecutor's office yesterday against a 56-year-old retired schoolteacher who allegedly beat a 9-year-old boy over firecrackers in Manila. The inquest prosecutor found probable cause against Lydia Sotomayor, a resident of Barangay Dilad in Tondo, after she reportedly reprimanded the boy who was throwing his neighbor. Police are looking for Sotomayor's relative, Florentino, who also allegedly manhandled the boy. one of several children whom the village council reprimanded for playing firecrackers in front of their home. Manila Police District Women's and Children's Protection Desk head Chief Insp. Nilda Bodoso said that at around 6 a.m. on Sunday past midnight the Sotomayor house. The boy was playing with firecrackers in the company of other children when the elderly complainant allegedly chased the kids away. Sotomayor caught the boy and allegedly dragged him toward her house. He further slapped repeatedly got hold of the boy's other arm and the two engaged in a tug-of-war over the boy.

Jeannette I. Andrade

EXCLUSIVE
OPENS TODAY AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
Based on the remarkable true story that chronicles the spectacular journey of the 1973 Triple Crown winner.
glorietta GREENBELT

Clinton: WikiLeaks acted illegally

WASHINGTON—Striking back, the Obama administration branded the leak of more than a quarter-million sensitive files an attack on the United States on Monday and raised the prospect of criminal prosecution against the publisher WikiLeaks.

The Pentagon detailed new security safeguards, including restrictions on small computer flash drives, to make it harder for any one person to copy and reveal so many secrets.

The young Army private from Iraq suspected of stealing the diplomatic memos, many of them classified, and feeding them to WikiLeaks may have defeated Pentagon security systems using little more than a Lady Gaga CD and a portable computer memory stick.

The soldier, Bradley Manning, has not been charged in the latest release of internal US government documents. But officials said he was the prime suspect partly because of his open disregard of laws he pulled off a staggering haul of classified and restricted material.

"He was suspected a thing," Manning told a confidant afterward, according to a log of his computer chat published by Wired.com. "I didn't even have to hide anything."

US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton sent word Monday that WikiLeaks acted illegally in posting the materials. She said the administration was taking "aggressive steps to hold responsible those who stole this information."

Atty. Gen. Eric Holder said the government was mounting a criminal investigation, and the Pentagon was tightening access to information, including restricting the use of computer storage devices such as CDs and flash drives.

"This is not some sterling," Holder said. Anyone found to have broken American law "will be held responsible."

Holder said the latest disclosure, involving classified and sensitive state department documents, jeopardized the security of the nation, its diplomats, intelligence assets and relationships with foreign governments.

A weary-looking Clinton agreed.

"I want you to know that we are taking aggressive steps to hold responsible those who stole this information," Clinton said. She spoke in between calls to foreign officials to make amends for scolding and gossip memos power memos for foreign eyes.

Manning is charged in military court with taking other classified material later published by the online clearinghouse WikiLeaks. It is not clear whether others such as WikiLeaks executives might be charged separately in civilian courts.

Clinton said the state department was adding security controls to prevent unofficial friends. The Pentagon, embarrassed by the apparent ease with which secret documents were passed to WikiLeaks, had detailed some of its new precautions on Sunday.

Col. Dave Lapan, a Pentagon spokesperson, said it was possible that many people could be held accountable if they were found to have ignored security protocols or somehow enabled the download without authorization. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Hostage drama

MANCHESTER—A high school student who pulled a handgun and shot a film projector on the school day around dismissed 33 classmates and a teacher hostage for about five hours before shooting himself when police busted down a classroom door. Terrified students of Manchester High School in Rhinebeck did their best to keep the 16-year-old gunman calm, spending hours talking to him about hunting and fishing, said student Zach Compitello—one of the hostages who were released after convincing the boy he'd to use the bathroom. AP

Picasso trove

PARIS—PARIS—Pablo Picasso almost never stopped creating, leaving thousands of drawings, paintings and sculptures that lure crowds to museums and mansions worldwide. Now, a retired electrician says that 271 of the master's creations have been sitting for decades in his garage. Picasso's heirs are evaluating both the art world is savoring what appears to be an authentic find, and the enormous, color-splashed bonus drawn by Picasso, is defending what he calls a gift from the most renowned artist of the 20th century. AP

Climate change

CANCUN—Mexican President Felipe Calderon on Monday said he could understand why US voters in an economic crisis favored the opposition party, but he hoped the Republicans would eventually accept the need to protect the planet's climate for "new generations." "I hope they can realize sooner or later how important it is for the future," Calderon said. The Mexican leader also spoke of poorer nations taking a "vertical" position against any legally binding commitments to rein in their emissions of carbon dioxide and other industrial, transport and agricultural gases blamed for global warming, something he said Mexico was willing to do. AP

Gays in US military

WASHINGTON—The Pentagon study released that gay troops could serve openly without harming the military's ability to engage in combat is reigniting debate this month in Congress over repealing the 17-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Officials familiar with the 10-month study's results have said a clear majority of respondents don't care if gays serve openly, with 70 percent predicting that lifting the ban would have positive, almost or no impact. AP

British royal wedding

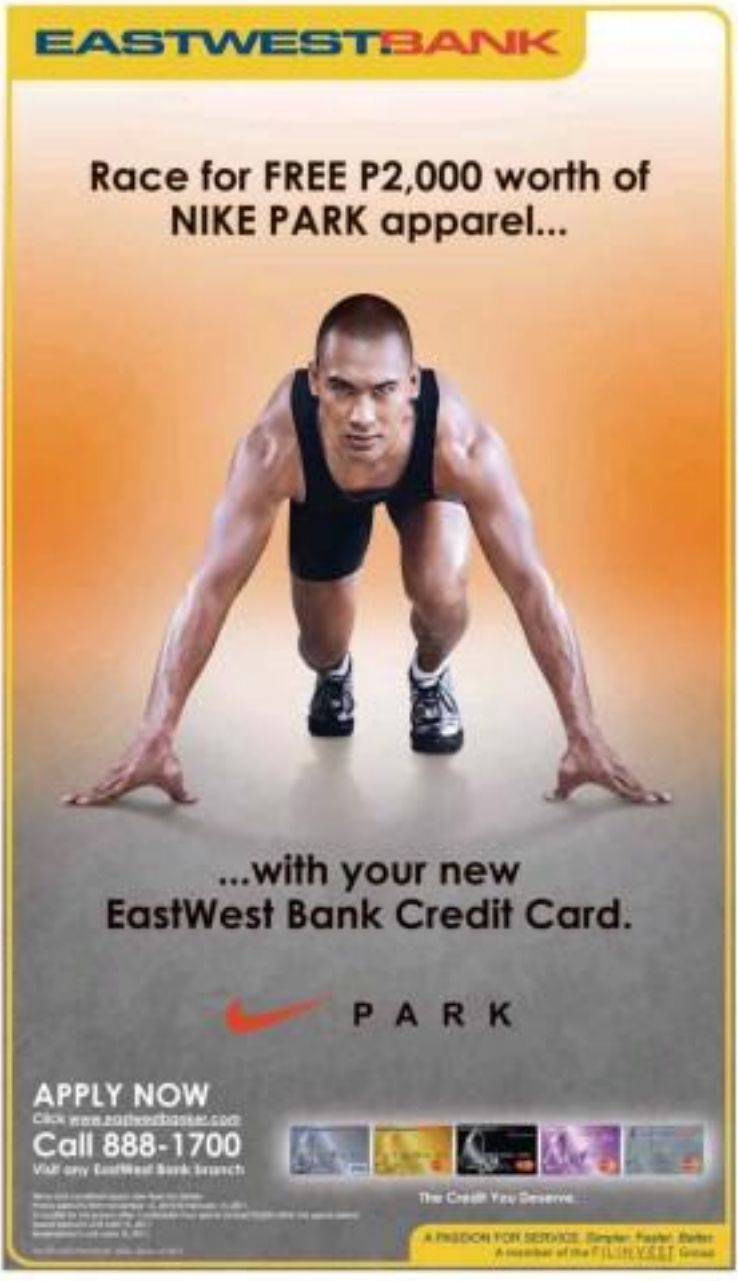
LONDON—A William and Catherine souvenir mug? A pair of hand-crafted resin superheroes? A dainty wedding ball, perhaps? With the 2-day of romantic overcast is flooding the market, most Americans don't have until 130 next year to celebrate Prince William's wedding. Almost as soon as the prince announced his engagement to long-time girlfriend Kate Middleton, souvenir shops and businesses producers have been inundated with orders requests for special edition mugs, plates and assorted collectibles. In a generally bleak retail landscape, British businesses have high hopes the wedding can bring in some badly needed cash. AP

Preventing HIV

JOHANNESBURG—Efforts to treat everyone in Africa infected with the AIDS virus are virtually futile, and public health experts should instead focus on preventing new cases, a committee of experts reported on Monday. Currently 22.5 million people in Africa have HIV, but this number will rise to more than 30 million by 2025—far more than can be treated with current resources, according to the report from the US Institute of Medicine. Reuters

Future food security

LONDON—Bumper harvests could have a key role in securing future food security, helping prevent a sharp drop in yields of crops such as wheat due to a shortage of phosphorus inputs, a UK organic body said on Monday. "It is estimated that only 10 percent of the three million metric tons of phosphorus excreted by the global human population each year are returned to agricultural lands," said Richard Hodgson, director of the Soil Association body, the first accreditation. Reuters



SMART Bro

Subscribe to SMART Bro and get this printer for just P88*

Now, you can enjoy instant online fun – plus print, copy and scan!

hp

Lira Lorenz B. Dasco

The WORLD

Korea crisis show signs of diplomacy

SEOUL—Jets roared off a supercarrier in US-South Korean war games on Tuesday, as the United States and two crucial Asian allies agreed to talk in Washington about North Korea's attack on a South Korean island and the North's nuclear weapons program.

Although North Korea kept up its sharp rhetoric—the country warned that the military drills could trigger "full-blown war"—the chair of North Korea's parliament arrived in **Beijing for talks with leaders in the** country's only major ally, China.

A Japanese envoy also was expected in China at a week of soaring tensions sparked by an artillery **barrage that killed four South Koreans** and gave way to signs of emerging diplomacy.

It was unclear if the visit by North Korea's Choe Thae-bok to Beijing would lead to any diplomatic solution. China proposed emergency regional talks earlier this week, but South Korea, the United States and Japan gave a cool response.

Focus on Choe invitation to Beijing, the North reminded the world it was forging ahead with its nuclear efforts.

US aircraft take off and land in quick succession aboard the USS George Washington supercarrier during Tuesday's drills. →

Pyongyang on Tuesday said that it was operating a modern uranium enrichment plant equipped with thousands of centrifuges. The trade-hungry Western newspaper said in an editorial that the North was also building light-water reactors.

The commentary carried by the official Korean Central News Agency said the nuclear enrichment was entirely for peaceful purposes.

The North first revealed the program to nuclear researcher on a visiting American scientist. A light-water nuclear power reactor is reasonably for civilian energy purposes, but it gives the North a reason to enrich uranium. Uranium enrichment would give the North a second way to make nuclear bombs, in addition to its known plutonium-based program.

North Korea has pushed for renewed international talks on reviving much-needed aid in return for commitments to dismantle nuclear programs, and its recent aggression could reflect frustration that those talks remain stalled.

The North's relentless artillery barrage on a South Korean island on Nov. 23 that hit civilian areas, marking a new level of hostility along the contested maritime border between the Koreas. The attack killed two South Korean civilians and two Marines.

In a major address on Monday, South Korean President Lee Myung-bak pledged a tough response if the North carried out any further attacks.

Foreign ministers from South Korea, the United States and Japan are to meet in Washington in early December to discuss the fuelling and South Korea's nuclear program, according to South Korea's foreign ministry.

Despite the diplomacy, tension in the region remained high.

On Tuesday, the North's propaganda machine issued a warning that the US-South Korea drills involving a nuclear-powered US submarine could trigger a "full-blown war" on the peninsula. AP

WikiLeaks bares plans for Nokor's fall

BEIJING – Leaked US diplomatic cables show China's frustration with communist ally North Korea and speculate Beijing would accept a future Korean peninsula unified under South Korean rule, according to the documents released by whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks.

The memos indicate the major importance American and South Korean diplomats place on China's attitude toward the future survival of the isolated and impoverished hardline communist regime in Pyongyang.

The release of the documents follows new tensions in the region with North Korea unleashing a fiery artillery barrage on a South Korean island that killed four people a week ago. The regime also warned that joint US-South Korean naval drills this week had pushed the peninsula to the "brink of war."

China "would be comfortable with a reunified Korea controlled by [rival] and anchored to the US in a 'benign alliance' as long as Korea was not hostile toward China," South Korea's then vice foreign minister, Chun Yung-woo, is quoted as telling the US ambassador to South Korea, Kathleen Stephens, in February.

Systematic opportunities in a reunified Korea would include indirect Chinese acquiescence, Chun says.

But the diplomatic cables warn that China—which fought on North Korea's side in the 1950-53 Korean War—would not accept the presence of US troops north of the demilitarized zone that currently forms the North-South border.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hong Lei said China had noted the leaked cables but would not comment on specific content.

"China always supports the North and South sides of the Korean peninsula to have dialogue and consultations to improve their relations," Hong said at a regularly scheduled news conference.

In the leaked cable, Chun predicts the government in Pyongyang "would last no more than three years following the death of ailing leader Kim Jong-il, who is working to ensure his younger son Kim Jong-un, a political linguist in his 20s.

While China favors maintaining the status quo, it has little ability to stage a collapse and has influence over the authorities in Pyongyang than is widely believed, according to the cable.

"Beijing had 'no will' to use its economic leverage to force a change in Pyongyang's policies," Chun says, adding the North Korean leadership's reluctance to heed the Chinese to nuclear programs to the absence of a more forceful Chinese approach.

Chun also discusses the possibility of Chinese military intervention if North Korea descended into chaos.

Despite that, China is preparing to handle any outbreaks of unrest along the border that would follow a collapse of the regime. Chinese officials say they could deal with up to 300,000 refugees, but might have to seal the border to maintain order, the memos say, citing an unidentified representative of an international aid group. AP

Save 60% with Epson's MaxEconomy Printers!
Get one out of nine FREE with the MaxEconomy Free Ink Promo

Save as much as 60% off your printing costs when you print using the Epson MaxEconomy (ME) printers! The Epson ME and ME Office series are high performance inkjet printers designed to address the demand of different business segments in our growing nation. These Epson printers feature genuine Epson Micro Piezo printing technologies for precise, long-term savings for businesses — from home and small offices to medium and large corporations. Each of these Epson printers promises to deliver superior print quality, incredible print speed and one of the lowest running costs available in the market today.

As a bonus, from November 15 to December 31, 2010, every purchase of any Epson MaxEconomy to ME printer entitles the consumer to a set of inks, absolutely FREE! To avail of your free set of inks, simply purchase any ME or ME Office printer from authorized Epson dealers or retail partners, present the proof of purchase to designated Epson dealer representatives on the date of purchase and fill out a claim form. Epson dealers involved in the promo are the ME 30, ME 320, ME 350w/350F, ME Office 600F and ME Office 960FWD.

The Epson ME Jobs Economy printers are for home and small offices while the Epson ME Office printer series are for small, medium and large enterprises.

The Epson ME Series employ Epson ME™ 140 inks high-yield cartridges which can perform more productively and offers the lowest cost-per-cartridge rate in the industry. The Epson ME Office 960FWD and 960FWD also offer an option of using extra high capacity Epson ME™ 140 inks which further drops down running cost for cost-conscious businesses.

Epson DURABrite™ Ultra pigment-based ink is made from insoluble, resin-coated pigment particles. Unlike conventional dye-based inks, Epson DURABrite™ ink pigment particles rest near the surface of conventional paper and are not absorbed into the fibers. As a result DURABrite™ Ultra pigment inks have a smaller spot size than dye-based inks and will not appear blurred. The inks also have a quick-drying formula which makes it ideal for double-sided printing, thereby enabling users to reduce cost. Epson DURABrite™ Ultra pigment ink has been engineered to withstand water, smudges and offers industry-leading light-fastness on plain, matte, and photo papers, giving prints the ability to last up to 100 years.

Assange offered sanctuary

QUITO—WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange made a bold, Ecuador's deputy foreign minister says this Andean nation is happy to provide one.

The 39-year-old Australian, who has incensed and embarrassed Washington with the release by his online whistle-blowing organization of hundreds of sensitive diplomatic cables, faces imminent treasury questions.

In response to the potential hostility from US allies, leftist Ecuador president Rafael Correa will host Assange with an invitation on Monday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Kintto Lucas said he made public online by the Ecuador-based news site that "we are open to giving him residence in Ecuador." AP

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Biz Buzz: Executive Secretary Almendras? /B2
■ PSALM defers auction for Naga Power IPPA /B5

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

■ Meralco to sell P4.8B in notes /B8
■ Pancake converts P200M in notes to shares /B12

Treasury bill rates drop to all-time lows

Bellwether T-bill falls below 1% in the last offering for the year

By Michelle V. Remo

TREASURY BILL rates declined during yesterday's auction—the last government offering for the year—and hit a new all-time low as banks awash in cash scrambled for the virtually risk-free securities.

The rate for the bellwether 91-day T-bill only reached 0.775 percent from the previous rate of 1.46 percent. This was the first time the interest rate for a government debt security fell below one percent.

Traders for the three-month securities reached P4.1 billion, about four times the government's debt offering of only P1 billion.

The 182-day bill fetched a rate 1.61 percent—down from the previous rate of 1.910 percent. Tenor of bills for the six-month debt instrument hit P5.33 billion, exceeding the government's offering of P2.5 billion.

Also, the rate for the 364-day bill settled at 2.280 percent from 2.394 percent of the previous auction. Tenders for the one-year bill reached P7.90 billion—over twice as much as the government's offering of P3.5 billion.

"There are so much funds in the system. Banks scrambled for the T-bills given that it is the last auction for the year," bulletin Treasurer Roberto Tan said in a briefing after the offerings.

Anthon Navales, market strategist for Banco de Oro, the law Treasury rates were due to the substantial liquidity in the

TREASURY B2

A PETRON employee carries a cylinder of diet board of LPG at a local outlet. But sales are the softening in take prices in reaction to a corresponding surge in the international markets.

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Nov. 30, 2010
44.000

STOCK MARKET
Nov. 30, 2010
48

PSE index falls below 4,000 mark

DEARE PRICES fell for the sixth straight day on Tuesday as uncertainties such as the Europe zone debt crisis affect investor confidence.

The main Philippine Stock Exchange index fell below the 4,000 mark for the first time in almost seven months to close at 3,983.7 points, 2.48 percent or almost a hundred points down from the day before.

Thirty-nine of 40 shares closed 1.75 percent or 48 points lower at 2,747.30 points. The same as decliners outnumbered gainers 100 to 56.

The sell-off from the big property shares, which fell by seven-eighths of 4.27 percent, followed by Philippine Stocking 3.67 percent.

Mining and oil shares gained

PSE B3

LPG prices may go up by ₱5/kilo in Dec.

By Amy R. Remo

RETAILERS MAY hike prices of liquefied petroleum gas by at least ₱5 a kilogram this month due to a surge in world market prices.

The source that the price of an 11-kg LPG cylinder may go up by as much as ₱55 in December alone, according to the LPG Marketers Association (LPGMA).

At the sidelines of a House committee on energy hearing covering LPGMA panelist Rep. Arnel Ty explained that the latest price movement was due to a hike in the international contract price of LPG to $893 a metric ton, from last month's $791 a MT.

According to Ty, the $102-per-MT difference would be equivalent to the planned increase of local retail prices by ₱5 kilogram.

To cushion the impact of the increase, member companies of LPGMA have already increased the price of cooking gas by ₱3 per kilogram, or ₱33 per cylinder, starting today Dec. 1.

Latest LPG retailers will further hike prices to say, where between ₱483 and ₱13 per 11-kg tank.

The decision to further

LPG B7

DOF urged to pursue multibillion-peso tax cases

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance needs to recover billions of pesos in government revenue lost in the tax credit scam of the 1990s and bring to justice the main suspect, Teodoro Dinglasan, according to lawyers from K-P Angeles and Associates.

The law firm, where chair is a key witness in the scam, wrote a letter to Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima chief, encouraging him to pursue the tax credit case with more urgency and determination.

The key witness in the case is Felix Dinglasan, brother of the main suspect. Felix has served as the main witness from the time the tax credit cases were filed in 1995.

Teodoro Dinglasan is accused of committing fraud through his favorite forms. The fraud allegedly obtained through fraud 164 credit certificates (TCC) from the government, which were then used to get tax refunds from the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The government was estimated to have lost about P5 billion from the tax credit fraud in the last decade. About half of the amount, or P2.46 billion, was accounted for by TCCs obtained by Teodoro Dinglasan through his companies.

Besides is also facing tax evasion and money laundering rap.

DOF B3

LET YOUR BMW 3 SERIES TAKE YOU TO MUNICH AND FLORENCE.

Experience youthful dynamism on every exciting journey with a BMW 3 Series, the country's best-selling premium sedan. Now is the best time to reward yourself for a hard year's work with a BMW 3 Series, because your brand new car entitles you to a European Holiday in Munich and Florence. Visit your authorized BMW dealership today and learn more about how you could drive the BMW 3 Series and see the best of Europe for only Php24,083* a month.

BMW EfficientDynamics
Less Emissions. More Driving Pleasure.

*Terms and conditions apply.

Autohaus BMW Automotriz BMW Performance Auto BMW Prestige Cars BMW Premier Cars BMW

Malaysia. Truly Daily!
Fly to Kuala Lumpur 10x weekly and to Kota Kinabalu 3x weekly
CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

Executive Secretary Almendras?

BIZ BUZZ
By the staff

PULL PROMOTION Against Duque's new Executive Secretary in the coming months (or weeks)?

According to our sources, Energy Secretary Rene Almendras is on a very short list of candidates to become "Little President" in the event Duque—or unlikely) that the post currently held by Secretary Jojo Ochoa becomes vacant.

Almendras' stock has risen in the President's eyes in recent months, supposedly because of his skills in managing the critical energy portfolio, plus the fact that he is not encumbered with either the Samar or Subay factions in the Palace.

More importantly Almendras supposedly heads one of the three factions of Malacañan Kadugan Inc. Even before being named energy chief, he reportedly held enough clout already to give Pnoy a piece of his mind when he found the President's choice for a Jury Cabinet post less than impressive.

The other name on the very short short list of possible Executive Secretaries is former Solicitor Blue Ribbon who just returned last week from a two-month trip to the United States following his less-than-favorable showing in last summer's national elections.

Relax, of course, still have to wait for the one-man appointment but to end in mid-2011? Before the rush for appointee's-any-government-post. Daniel L. Lucas

Yet another candidate

ACCORDING to one Aquino administration source, "Mr. Banking Cabinet Official" is not the only person meeting a quiet eye on the post of Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

This source claims that another wealthy-bred official who holds office in the Palace is also determined to be portfolio if the maneuvering for the Justice of Sec. de Lima to the Commission on Elections succeeds.

This official, who—like Mr. Banking Cabinet Official—is likewise involved in the legal affairs of the Palace bunch, saved they ain't, but also feels entitled for his close-to-the-portfolio performance during the first months that he has held his post (remember all those muddled Executive Orders?).

Whoever it is, it seems clear that some forces in Malacañang want Sec. de Lima to become Commissioner de Lima pretty soon (even if, or maybe precisely because, she is not aligned with either of the two Palace factions). Dracon L. Lucas

More to Nonoy

HEADLINES that tend to be thrown in the path of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Gov. Nestor Espenilla are disappointing to no end.

Known as "Nestorg" to friend and foe alike, the chief enforcer of the country's banking regulation has made many enemies within the central bank and the broader banking community for pushing unpopular reforms and for breaking up cozy rackets.

Of late, however, people have begun to realize that Espenilla was a backroom of President Aquino during their high school days at the Ateneo. Espenilla went on the University of the Philippines for his college degree).

As such, Espenilla has unofficially become a dark horse candidate for the governorship of the central bank once the term of Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. ends in mid-2011.

"All of a sudden, he is being viewed as a contender," said one banker who pointed out that some of his peers have softened or gazed down their opposition to the policies of Espenilla, who heads the central bank's supervision and examination sector (essentially it's financial police).

"When you're a candidate, people inside and outside the organization are suddenly nice to you, just in case..." the banker explained.

For whatever it's worth, it looks like the overworked Espenilla will be able to get some done later in the coming months. Dracon L. Lucas

Fresh mandate

A NEW business umbrella organization is being set up to represent the "market unpenetrated" firms based in Manila.

The group—called the Manila Mandate—is being put together by political strategist and Manileño Tony Gamboa in take up the cudgels for firms whose interests are not presently represented by groups like the Makati Business Club or the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries, according to Gamboa.

In true trying-to-revive-Manila's glory fashion, the group will be launched on Friday, Dec. 3, at the historic Manila Grand Opera House with Mayor Fred Lim as the guest of honor.

For Manila history buffs, the Manila Grand Opera House was rare-owned by Imelda Trendnos, who also owned Ang Tibay shoes (the local homegrown of tri-day steel-shape-cold leisure).

The opera house was built using profits from his lucrative supply contract with the Philippine Army for thick combat boots made during the time of President Quezon.

The Manila Grand Opera House was also the venue of the Constitutional Convention back then, Nestor C. Lucas

Petron thanks the pipeline

ONE of the stocks that have performed tremendously well in recent weeks—despite the broader market's decline—is Petron Corp.

One possible reason is speculation over the company's potential gains at try the petroleum pipeline of Nyx Philippine Industrial Corp. was damaged and shut down, resulting in supply shortages for Shell and, via smaller degree, Chevron.

Stock market jockeys have been trying to guess how much market share the fuel refiner and distributor would gain due to the gas station shutdowns of its rivals in this intensely competitive market.

Months or more.

According to a couple of industry sources, the country' largest petroleum firm has so far managed to raise its market share—which is already the largest—from 30 percent to 40 percent in recent weeks.

If you know how difficult it is to gain even one percentage point of market share in the petroleum business, you'll know that Petron's recent gains are no laughing matter. Dracon L. Lucas

PSE index falls . . .

From page B1

1.49 percent while the service sector went up by 0.31 percent. About 3.40 billion shares worth P6.4 billion changed hands.

"Too many distractions have surfaced in recent days ... keeping investors at the sidelines," a trader said. "While there are bargain hunters on the prowl, their numbers did not suffice to lend support to the market, sending the index lower." Paolo E. Montecillo

DOF urged . . .

From page B1

All cases have been pending in courts for years.

The government is urged to go after not only the master suspect, but also for assets so that the government may recover what it lost from the scam.

"For more than a decade, our client, Jolo Clingbon, have ... dedicated most of his time and resources as one of the main witnesses of the government against the perpetrators of the infamous but now forgotten tax credit scam," the law firm said in the letter to the Bureau chief.

"It appears that while most of the government officials who started the investigation ... had already moved on to pursue other concerns, the authors of the scam continue to enjoy the fruits of their misdeeds.

Jasmine Clingbon is believed to have fled to Canada with his family, but still owns companies in the Philippines.

PORSCHE

TRAINING & RECRUITMENT CENTER ASIA

4th Batch of Graduates

PGACars

DON BOSCO TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Assuring the future of the underprivileged Filipino Youth

The Dream Car Helps Make Dreams Come True

Porsche Training and Recruitment Center Asia celebrates the graduation of its fourth batch of scholars.

Top Porsche Training and Recruitment Center Asia, a joint undertaking between PGA Cars, Porsche A.G. and Don Bosco, shows underprivileged and deserving students of Don Bosco Technical Institute to be trained on Porsche Mechatronics curriculum with assured employment in Porsche Centers worldwide upon completion of the training program.

Shown with the fourth batch of PGA Cars scholars with PGA Cars Chairman Robert Coyiuto, Jr. (standing right) are, PTRCA Technical Training Manager Thorsten Hagel (standing, second from right) and Porsche AG Mechatronics Consulting staff.

With over 20,000 stylistic innovation racing since 1948, Porsche has made its mark as one of the number 1 Premium Sports Car Brand in the world, owning legendary races such as the Targa Florio, Le Mans 24 hours, and even off-road rally races. Porsche is not just about glamour and fast cars, more than anything, Porsche is about making winners. In the Philippines, Porsche has teamed up with PGA Cars and the Don Bosco Manpower Skills Training Center for the poor and out of school youth, to put up a first of its kind facility the Porsche Training and Recruitment Center Asia. The idea behind the program was to provide a combination venue and curriculum for underprivileged but promising young scholars that would give them the training needed to make them the race leaders in automotive service.

Initiated in 2006 by Robert Coyiuto Jr., Chairman of PGA Cars, Inc., the Porsche Training and Recruitment Center Asia came to realization when the Porsche AG Supervisory Board decided to put up a "mechanic school" in the Philippines. In 2007, The Porsche Training and Recruitment Center Asia went beyond just being an idea, when plans for the school were finalized between PGA Cars, Porsche AG, and Don Bosco Training Center.

The Porsche Training and Recruitment Center Asia, offers a holistic development program which trains the scholars not only with technical skills but also with soft skills such as language and customer handling. To help the budding mechatronics better understand their craft, Porsche saw it fit to provide them the best training aids. They were dedicated training vehicles, equipment, and tools to be utilized by the scholars as a medium of theoretical and practical learning. The Porsche Training and Recruitment Center Asia even has a Porsche room purpose-built to be used by the scholars as their permanent classroom at the PGA headquarters.

Mr. Coyiuto, who spoke at the fourth Porsche Training and Recruitment Center Asia graduation ceremony, says those who were accepted as scholars "have the combined spirit of competitiveness, perseverance, patience, discipline and the dynamism to succeed in the highly competitive field of automotive service technology."

Once they passed, the scholars had to train under the steady hand of Porsche Training Director Thorsten Hagel, who is focused in producing world-class technicians for Porsche's emerging markets.

The 10 month program is built on both classroom and hands-on training. The scholars have to undergo (3) months of theory and practical work at Don Bosco Makati, followed by a 9 month specialized Porsche training course to reinforce their learning in specific real-world applications at the Porsche Training and Recruitment Center Asia.

Because the future Mechatronics would be deployed worldwide, they also needed to learn how to deal with international customers. To fortify their preparedness for their future employment, PGA Cars enlisted the services of Berlitz Manila to conduct weekly language classes for the scholars.

Harnessing the raw potential of the 22 scholars, the fourth batch of certified Porsche Service Mechatronics are now ready to for their assured employment in Porsche Centers worldwide.

The 22 new Porsche Service Mechatronics join the ranks of 48 other PTRCA graduates now deployed in emerging Porsche markets like Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Abu Dabi, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Yemen, Brunei, and in the Philippines, that with its continuing success more and more companies in and out of the auto industry are patronizing their training programs as the Porsche Training and Recruitment Center Asia.

The fresh graduates are already set to be sent abroad with five going to the Middle East while the rest will go, for the first time, to Latin America.

"Porsche is the most admired premium sports car in the world. It is a dream for young people to work for Porsche and also a dream to own one," Mr. Coyiuto tells the graduates, adding that it is now their job to fulfill their customers' dreams of driving an automotive icon.

With the drive that saw them through the meticulous screening and the comprehensive training, the Porsche Training and Recruitment Center Asia graduates will definitely be more than "just mechanics." They will be the pride of their families and their country, as they show the world that the Filipino is world-class.

And who knows? It's possible that they may soon be driving Porsches themselves in a few years.

PTRCA Mechatronics Deployment Statistics	
Country	No. Assigned
Porsche Center Dubai	22
Porsche Center Qatar	7
Porsche Center Saudi Arabia	8
Porsche Center Kuwait	5
Porsche Center Abu Dhabi	5
Porsche Center Oman	4
Porsche Center Yemen	1
Porsche Center Brunei	1
Porsche Center Philippines	6
Porsche Center Latin America	5

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

My warmest congratulations to the fourth batch of Porsche PGA Cars Scholars of the Porsche Training and Recruitment Center Asia.

I take pride in your commitment to your chosen specialty, and I share your enthusiasm in your unique achievement as graduates of this institution. Through your initiative, you have done our country proud, as you now stand among the select practitioners in this field. For that, I thank the Training Center especially both its Board of providing scholarships to underprivileged but deserving students. This gracious, honest, consistently our administration's objective to empower our citizenry, in fulfillment of our Social Contract with the Filipino people.

We continue to draw strength from our fellow Filipinos in finding ways to fulfill our country's potential. We urge you to stay with us on the straight and righteous path to stability and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY BENIGNO SIMEON AQUINO III
President of the Philippines

PTRCA batch topnotcher Ronald Santillan receives his graduation certificate from PGA Cars Chairman Robert Coyiuto, Jr.

1st Batch of Scholars

Shown are the first batch of PGA Cars scholars with PGA Cars Chairman Robert Coyiuto, Jr. (standing center front row), Porsche Philippines Head Roberto Coyiuto III (standing leftfirst row), Porsche AG Other Sales Market Support Central Manager Armin Rossi (standing leftfifth from left), Porsche AG Project Leader Qualification and Training Concepts Training Markets Thorsten Hagel (standing leftsixth from left), Don Bosco Technical Institute Technical Director Rodel Elmo Bonalgen, SDB (standing fourth from left), German Embassy First Secretary for Cultural Affairs Bettina Tonnies (standing, second from right), Porsche Asia Pacific Regional Office Sales Manager Herbert Hoecker (standing, third from right), and PTRCA Technical Training Manager Thorsten Hagel (standing, eighth from left).

2nd Batch of Scholars

Shown are the second batch of PTRCA Cars scholars with PGA Cars Chairman Robert Coyiuto, Jr. (seated second from left), Porsche Philippines Head Roberto Coyiuto III (seated rightmost), Porsche Asia Pacific Regional Office Sales Manager Herbert Hoecker (seated leftmost), and PTRCA Technical Training Manager Thorsten Hagel (seated third from left).

3rd Batch of Scholars

Shown are the third batch of PGA Cars scholars with PGA Cars Chairman Robert Coyiuto, Jr. (seated fifth from left), Porsche Philippines Head Roberto Coyiuto III (seated fourth from left), PGA Cars Director Rosendo Coyiuto (seated rightmost), Don Bosco Technical Institute Technical Director Rodel Elmo Bonalgen, SDB (seated leftmost), German Embassy First Secretary for Cultural Affairs Bettina Tonnies (seated second from left), Porsche Asia Pacific Regional Office Sales Manager Herbert Hoecker (seated third from left), and PTRCA Technical Training Manager Thorsten Hagel (seated sixth from left).

Grand Riviera Suites

Move up.
Live life.

Groundbreaking Ceremony Today!

Grand Riviera Suites is a luxury within your reach soaring in the prestigious strip of Roxas Boulevard. It offers contemporary living spaces complimented by magnificent views of the bay, perfectly fit for an enjoyable urban living. It also has a full level of amenities providing residents the much needed rest and recreation amidst the busy city life.

Units available: Studio, One-bedroom, Two-bedroom and Three-bedroom

For inquiries:
+632.559.8675 / 559.8995
www.moldex.com.ph/realty

a product of excellence by **MOLDEX** REALTY, INC.

BUSINESS

PSALM defers auction for Naga Power IPPA

Feb. or March bidding likely, says Ledesma

By Amy R. Remo

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. has again deferred the bidding for the independent power producer administrator (IPPA) contract for the 140-megawatt Naga power complex for 2011.

"I am reiterating to the board the final bid date that's the Naga power complex. At this point, it will be too late to notify bidders should the bid be held [in] December. Realistically and to be fair to the bidders, a later bid date is more likely," said Psalm president Emmanuel Ledesma.

In a text message, Ledesma said a more "realistic" time frame would be somewhere between February and March next year.

Interested parties

The bidding for the Naga IPPA contract was initially scheduled for August this year, but was put on hold for further review by the Aquino administration.

The auction was supposed to push through in December, marking the resumption of Psalm's privatization activities.

It was earlier reported that at least four groups were expected to participate in the bidding for the Naga IPPA contract. Psalm did not disclose the identities of the prospective firms but these likely included publicly listed First Philec Inc. and diversifying conglomerate San Miguel Corp., which earlier expressed interest in the contract.

The Naga power plant complex located in Naga, Cebu is composed of the Cebu power plant complex 1 with an installed capacity of 55 MW, Cebu power plant complex 2 with an installed capacity of 55 MW, and Cebu diesel power plant 1 with an installed capacity of 38 MW.

A successful bidding for the Naga IPPA will enable the government to meet the last precondition that will pave the way for the implementation of open access and retail competition, Ledesma said.

Unified Leyte issue

In the meantime, Representative Lucy Torres-Gomez sought the deferment of the sale and privatization of the IPPA contract for the 640-megawatt (MW) Unified Leyte Geothermal Power Complex in Tongonan, Leyte.

Senate Bill No. 1937 seeking the deferment of the IPPA bidding for three geothermal facilities and the amendment of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, which governs the privatization of the government's contracted capacities in IPPA.

The Senate Committee on Energy was supposed to discuss the matter in a hearing held yesterday but Gomez had asked for more time to gather the necessary data and documents to support her bill.

The IPPA bidding for Unified Leyte was originally scheduled for July this year but was postponed indefinitely. Psalm said it is intended to push through with the bidding in the third quarter of 2011.

Leyte-led Energy Development Corp. is currently the owner of the steam plants collectively known as Unified Leyte, which include the 125-MW Upper Mahiao, 232-MW Malitbog, 180-MW Mahanagdong, and 51-MW optimization plants.

Rise in rates feared

Three companies have expressed interest in the Unified Leyte IPPA. These are Pueblo Inc., Alsons Power Corp. and EDC, the country's largest geothermal producer.

However, a number of power consumers in the Visayas had called for the deferment of the privatization of the IPPA, saying the move would only jack up electricity rates further.

"If the privatization of the Unified Leyte geothermal power contracts would push through under the existing policies and pricing scheme, we fear that it would only increase electricity rates, which runs counter to the objectives of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira)," said the Federation of Rural Electric Cooperatives of Region VIII (Fresco VIII).

THE MEDICAL CITY
Ave., Quezon City
...ications for
Academic Year 2011
...
...
...

Regulator cites need to control Angat dam

MWSS airs concern over water security

By By Amy R. Remo

Mag-Negosyong Hi-tech na
SIGN MAKING
Roland
The No.1 Choice of Signmakers around the World!

Different times, same trust.

Banking before meant falling in line. Now it's going online.

Be there before 3 pm. Now, any time before an ATM.

Carry a bayong of money and break your back. Transact on your phone while on your back.

I can't imagine how much banking has changed. I can imagine how much more it will change in the future.

But one thing remains for my son and I. Trust in our bank.

Metrobank
You're in good hands.
www.metrobank.com.ph

Treasury bill ...

From page B1

LPG prices may ...

From page B1

BUSINESS

Meralco to sell ₱4.8B in notes

Proceeds may be used to finance projects in the pipeline

By Arra K. Reyes

MANILA ELECTRIC Co., the country's biggest power distributor, yesterday said it had signed a P4.8-billion fixed rate notes facility for general corporate purposes.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Meralco said the seven- and 10-year notes, which were priced at 5.0027 percent and 6.4558 percent, respectively, would be issued on Dec. 2.

The notes facility was arranged by SB Capital Corp., the lead manager and book runner.

While Meralco did not elaborate on how it would use the proceeds from the transactions, it had in the pipeline a number of planned projects that would require funding, particularly in the areas of power generation and electric vehicle industry.

Apart from projects to improve its distribution network, Meralco also targets to build a coal-fired facility that can initially generate 300 megawatts (MW) of peaking capacity that can be made available by 2012 or 2013.

In the long run, Meralco targets to harness natural gas to put up another 1,200 MW in baseload capacity that may go on-stream between 2014 and 2016.

The decision to increase the planned generation capacity from 1,500 MW will depend on the yearly growth in demand, state of existing power plants in the country, and the timing of the entry of the other new facilities into the national grid system.

Meralco president and COO Manuel V. Pangilinan earlier said the planned 1,500-MW portfolio was just a "conservative estimate" and that the figure could be higher.

Under the law, a power distributor is allowed to sell 50 percent of its own generating capacity. At present, he said, only about 25 percent or 1,200 megawatts of Meralco's supply was coming from affiliate power-generation companies, the plants owned by the Lopez family.

"Theoretically, Meralco can build up to 2,650 MW. That's the limit as of now. If we are able to buy franchises, that will go up. So there's a headroom. We can push it to the limit. What's important is that the new plants will help in stabilizing generation costs," Pangilinan had said.

In the meantime, Meralco is also planning to go into the electric vehicle industry by putting up charging stations for these vehicles.

Meralco COO Oscar Reyes earlier said the company would definitely look into the possibility of participating in this sector through its subsidiary Meralco Energy Inc. (MEI).

Reyes said Meralco was also open to providing technical advice to interested parties on the kind of electric vehicles that would be suitable for Philippine roads and climate conditions. The development of the vehicle itself would have to be left to the automotive industry, he added.

BUSINESS

Quick Alert: Text INQ DESIGNATED KEY to 2467 | Website: www.inquirer.net/business | E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph | Send us your feedback: Inquirer to open/type the message to 2467

ADB investing more in Asia's clean energy projects

Two private equity funds getting $20 million each

By Amy R. Remo

THE ASIAN Development Bank plans to increase its investments in clean energy development in Asia-Pacific by another $40 million through two new private equity funds.

In a statement, the ADB said its board had approved equity investments of up to $20 million each in Renewable Energy Asia Fund and Clean Resource Asia Growth Fund.

Renewable Energy Asia will invest primarily in renewable energy projects in the Philippines and India, while the other fund will target private equity investments in "promising green companies" in Asia.

"The ultimate impact of these funds will be increased contributions from investee companies in sustainable economic growth and greenhouse gas emission reductions in ADB's developing member countries," explained Robert van Zwienen, director for the private sector operations department (PSOD) at the ADB.

In the statement, the Manila-based lender said the Renewable Energy Asia Fund, to be managed by English fund manager Berkeley Energy, would seek out renewable energy projects to be implemented in the Philippines, India and other Southeast Asian countries. It targets to raise controlling stakes in projects and project developers with investments ranging from 5 million to 25 million euros. The target fund size is 150 million euros, it added.

In the meantime, Clean Resource Asia Growth Fund, sponsored by CIMA Capital Partners, will target businesses engaged in clean energy-related operations in Asia, with the main focus in China and India. The fund targets to make as many as 14 investments, taking significant minority positions in the investing companies. The target fund size is $200 million.

M. Shiv Rita, head of private equities in PSOD, said ADB's participation in these funds would help it achieve its target fund size, and provide confidence to private investors to come on board.

"It will also aid capital markets development by filling a financing gap and encourage support for other private equity funds interested in the sector," he added.

According to ADB, Asia's booming economies and surging demand for cleaner sources of power are making it one of the "most attractive destinations to the world for environmentally friendly investments."

It added that the Philippines, People's Republic of China and India had been touted to be among the most promising economies in terms of "green" investments.

Philippines seen on tough path to zero rice imports

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE PHILIPPINES, the world's top rice importer, may find it harder than first thought to attain self-sufficiency in 2013 in view of recent declines in production.

"It may be better for the government to focus on increasing rice production instead of importing. Better to keep importation to the private sector. That way, the government can get revenue that it can devote to productivity-enhancement programs," said economist Jesus Bellicanta of the University of the Philippines, according to rice industry stakeholders, as the government sets the volume of imports, the system tends to encourage corruption since those are few accredited players determined by public officials.

This also results in the government missing out on tariff collections.

Recent news may also go against higher demand if ill-timed, making rice prices rise.

"But I am more concerned with the capacity of government to actually determine the timing and volume of imports as well as production and demand patterns," Bellicanta said.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala said the Philippines might halve rice imports for 2011 from the 2010 volume and would eventually stop importing in 2013.

Yet the Department itself lowered—for the second time—its forecast on 2010 rice production.

Bureau of Agricultural Statistics director Romeo Recide said the latest rice output target for full-year 2010 was now 16.02 million metric tons, considering the production declines in the third quarter.

The original target was 17.14 million tons and this was first downgraded to 16.24 million tons following the August release of first-half production results.

Defending what seems to be an overly optimistic goal on curbing imports starting with 2013 supply, Recide said the government was studying "options" on the import volume, the mechanism of importation, and the timing of purchases.

The Philippines had 2.695 million tons of rice for 2010—higher than the 2.4 million tons earmarked for 2009 which were bought in 2008, when prices reached an all-time high of $1,000 per ton.

For 2010 supply, the government imported 1.82 million tons via tenders and about 455,000 tons to members. The rest of the total, or around 220,000 tons, were imported by the private sector.

Other agriculture officials said the government would focus all efforts on curbing imports starting next year and on meeting rice sufficiency targets.

Palay demand should reach about 20.6 million tons to 20.7 million tons by 2011, 20.9 million tons by 2012, and 21.11 million tons by 2013.

Palay production should reach about 17.4 million tons by next year, 19.2 million tons by 2013, and 21.12 million tons by 2013.

Antonio Inocencio Divina Meloto said the 2013 output "should be enough to cover demand and buffer stock." As such, there would be no more need for rice imports.

In the first nine months of 2010, the Philippine agriculture sector contracted by 2.62 percent.

The prolonged dry spell spanned a heavy toll on the crops subsector and declined by 7.3 percent. Gains in the livestock (1.07 percent), poultry (1.81 percent), and fisheries (0.69 percent) subsectors failed to make up for the decline in crops.

On rice alone, Jan.-Sept. production declined by 14.91 percent to 9.2 million tons from 10.81 million tons in the same period last year.

"The late onset of the rainy season delayed planting of palay (unmilled rice) and cost in July and August. Hence, the bulk of palay and corn harvests will be accounted in the fourth quarter," Department of Agriculture spokesperson Salvador Salacup said.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DIVISION OF CAMARINES SUR
San Jose, Pili, Camarines Sur

DepED

INVITATION TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of Camarines Sur, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to participate in supplying and delivery for the following items:

Name of Project	Location	Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
SCHOOL FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT SCHOOLS	DepED Camarines Sur	Lockers, Computer Desk, Projection Screen, Refrigerator, Typewriter Table	Php 2,261,200.00
SCHOOL FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT SCHOOLS	DepED Camarines Sur	Lockers, Computer Desk, Projection Screen, Refrigerator, Typewriter Table	Php 2,168,200.00
SCHOOL FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT SCHOOLS	DepED Camarines Sur	Lockers, Computer Desk, Projection Screen, Refrigerator, Typewriter Table	Php 2,168,200.00
SCHOOL FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT SCHOOLS	DepED Camarines Sur	Desk, Chair, Table	Php 2,168,200.00
SCHOOL FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT SCHOOLS	DepED Camarines Sur	Desk, Chair, Table	Php 2,168,200.00
SCHOOL FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT SCHOOLS	DepED Camarines Sur	Desk, Chair, Table	Php 2,168,200.00
SCHOOL FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT SCHOOLS	DepED Camarines Sur	Desk, Chair, Table	Php 2,168,200.00

GUIDELINES FOR BIDDING (GOODS) (DAP 2004)

1. Prospective bidders should be properly organized, authorized, and qualified to enter into the contract in accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184.
2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9184. Bidding is open to all accredited bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in the IRR of RA 9184.
3. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by the interested bidders on the dates given below upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos Only (Php 2,000.00). The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidders or authorized representatives.
5. The BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on December 17, 2010, 2:00 P.M. at the BAC Conference Room, 6th F. DepED Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila which shall be open only to all bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before December 28, 2010 at 2:00 P.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash or cashier's/manager's check issued by a Universal or Commercial Bank, or Bank draft/guarantee or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a Universal or Commercial Bank. PROVIDED, however, that it shall be confirmed or authenticated by a Universal or Commercial Bank, if issued by a foreign bank, to wit:

LOT NO.	BID SECURITY (1-7%) (3% of Sub-ABC)
1	5,964.00
2	4,284.00
3	2,724.00
4	3,900.00
5	540.00
6	12,900.00
7	4,000.00

7. Bid opening shall be on December 28, 2010 immediately after the submission cut-off time at 2:00 P.M. at BAC Conference Room, 6th F. DepED Bldg., ESP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. In order to assure that manufacturing defects shall be corrected by the supplier, over-priced security shall be required from the contract awardee for a minimum period of one (1) year after acceptance by the Procuring Entity of the delivered supplies. The obligation for the warranty shall be covered by a special bank guarantee equivalent to at least ten (10%) of the contract price. The said amounts shall be released after the period of warranty period.
9. The BLGF reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
10. The address of the Procuring Entity:

The BAC Secretariat c/o Property Section Administration Division
Bureau of Local Government Finance-Department of Finance
6th F. DepED Bldg., ESP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila

MA. PRESENTACION R. MONTESA, CESO III
BLGF Executive Director

(PEN - December 1, 2010)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DIVISION OF CAMARINES SUR
San Jose, Pili, Camarines Sur

DepED

INVITATION TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of Camarines Sur, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to participate in supplying and delivery for the following items:

Name of Project	Location	Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
SCHOOL FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT SCHOOLS	DepED Camarines Sur	Lockers, Computer Desk, Projection Screen, Refrigerator, Typewriter Table	Php 2,261,200.00
SCHOOL FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT SCHOOLS	DepED Camarines Sur	Lockers, Computer Desk, Projection Screen, Refrigerator, Typewriter Table	Php 2,168,200.00
SCHOOL FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT SCHOOLS	DepED Camarines Sur	Lockers, Computer Desk, Projection Screen, Refrigerator, Typewriter Table	Php 2,168,200.00
SCHOOL FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT SCHOOLS	DepED Camarines Sur	Desk, Chair, Table	Php 2,168,200.00
SCHOOL FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT SCHOOLS	DepED Camarines Sur	Desk, Chair, Table	Php 2,168,200.00
SCHOOL FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT SCHOOLS	DepED Camarines Sur	Desk, Chair, Table	Php 2,168,200.00
SCHOOL FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT SCHOOLS	DepED Camarines Sur	Desk, Chair, Table	Php 2,168,200.00

GUIDELINES FOR BIDDING (GOODS) (DAP 2004)

1. Prospective bidders should be properly organized, authorized, and qualified to enter into the contract in accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184.
2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is open to all accredited bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in the IRR of RA 9184.
3. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by the interested bidders on the dates given below upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos Only (Php 2,000.00). The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidders or authorized representatives.
5. The BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on December 17, 2010, 2:00 P.M. at the BAC Conference Room, 6th F. DepED Bldg., ESP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila which shall be open only to all bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before December 28, 2010 at 2:00 P.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash or cashier's/manager's check issued by a Universal or Commercial Bank, or Bank draft/guarantee or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a Universal or Commercial Bank. PROVIDED, however, that it shall be confirmed or authenticated by a Universal or Commercial Bank, if issued by a foreign bank, to wit:

LOT NO.	BID SECURITY (1-7%) (3% of Sub-ABC)
1	5,964.00
2	4,284.00
3	2,724.00
4	3,900.00
5	540.00
6	12,900.00
7	4,000.00

7. Bid opening shall be on December 28, 2010 immediately after the submission cut-off time at 2:00 P.M. at BAC Conference Room, 6th F. DepED Bldg., ESP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. In order to assure that manufacturing defects shall be corrected by the supplier, over-priced security shall be required from the contract awardee for a minimum period of one (1) year after acceptance by the Procuring Entity of the delivered supplies. The obligation for the warranty shall be covered by a special bank guarantee equivalent to at least ten (10%) of the contract price. The said amounts shall be released after the period of warranty period.
9. The BLGF reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
10. The address of the Procuring Entity:

The BAC Secretariat c/o Property Section Administration Division
Bureau of Local Government Finance-Department of Finance
6th F. DepED Bldg., ESP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila

MA. PRESENTACION R. MONTESA, CESO III
BLGF Executive Director

(PEN - December 1, 2010)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
COLE ROY Building, 807 Shaham St.
Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEP'S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
LUX ERP MANAGEMENT INC. 27 John Dent Bldg., Ayala Ave., San Juan, Manila, Manila	Takeshita, Hideki/ Japanese	Senior Consultant
YING ZHE FOREMOST CORPORATION Unit 567 Gateway Bldg., Ayala Ave., Manila, Manila	Jiaming Sun/ Chinese	Electronic Control Equipment Supervisor
19 SUN FOODS, INC. 12 Lotus Ave St. Bay, St., Pasay City	Shun Tin Tan/ Hongkonese	Chemical Consultant
GOLDEN MARKET INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY INC. 2/F Alfa Cars Guam 1716 Aurora Ave., cor. J.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Jianliang Zhao/ Chinese	Sales Consultant
ACCENTURE, INC. 4/F BDO Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Dong Wang/ Chinese	Consultant
ACCENTURE, INC. 4/F BDO Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hiroki Iwamotoya Tajima/ Japanese	Consultant
HAVESTWELL MINERAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION Unit 902 Philippine Stock Exchange Bldg., 6th Ave., cor. 27th St., Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Wenyong Su/ Chinese	Engineer
GRANITE VENTURE CORPORATION Unit 902 Philippine Stock Exchange Bldg., 6th Ave., cor. 27th St., Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Yuneng Zhou/ Chinese	Gem Technician
GRANITE VENTURE CORPORATION Unit 902 Philippine Stock Exchange Bldg., 6th Ave., cor. 27th St., Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Chunxiao Su/ Chinese	Consultant
GRANITE VENTURE CORPORATION Unit 902 Philippine Stock Exchange Bldg., 6th Ave., cor. 27th St., Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Changming Wang/ Chinese	Gemstone Cutter/Polisher
GLITZ ENGLISH FRANCE 2/F Plaza 1 Bldg., Ayala Ave., cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Dong Yun Kim/ Korean	General Manager
ADVANCED MOBILE SOLUTIONS, INC. 12/F Multinational Bancorporation Center, 6805 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kiyoshiro Kawasaki/ Japanese	Vice President
JAPAN CAREER SERVICE (PHILS.) INC. 2/F M.V. Hugo St., cor. Jupiter, Bel-Air, Makati City	Kagumi Abe/ Japanese	Account Manager
ACCRAN HOLDINGS CORPORATION 2/F Accran Bldg., 2nd Ave., cor. 30th St., Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Angel Lukaszewski/ Pole	Consultant
CITY GRAND HOTEL, INC. 415 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila	Sung Gun Kim/ Korean	General Manager
GALAXY HOTELS, INC. 4/F Ayala Life-FGU Center, 104 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Christopher Joseph Mullins/ American	Executive Assistant Manager
HANAA H TRADE CONSULTANCY INC. Unit 1107 Cityland Pasong Tamo Tower 2, Ayala Ave., cor. Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Sangki Jung/ Korean	Preservation and Building Manager
CHANGI CORP. Lot 2, G/F Phase 1A, Cavite Light Industrial Park, Tejero, Cavite City	Ming Chang Lu/ Taiwanese	Managing Director
UNI PLAN INC. 2/F Equitable Bank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City	Shinya Higuchi/ Japanese	President

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ANGELO C. ADRIANO
Regional Director

(PEN - Dec. 1, 2010)

(DOH Web Post: 08-12-01)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
A Wholly Owned Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Regular Credit and Claims Committee (RCCC) through its Bids and Award Committee (BAC), invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following contract:

Name of Contract	Contract Duration/ Description of Work	Approved Budget for the Contract
Provision of Laptops	1 unit - Intel Core i3 Processor 1 unit - Intel Core i5 Processor 1 unit - Intel Core i7 Processor All units must have the following specifications: Memory: 4GB DDR3 Hard Disk: 500GB Optical Drive: DVD-RW Display: 14" LED Webcam: Built-in Wireless: Built-in Bluetooth: Built-in Operating System: Windows 7 Home Premium Battery: 6-cell Warranty: 3 years	Php 1,000,000.00
Provision of Desktop Computers	Intel Core i5 Processor 4GB DDR3 RAM 500GB Hard Disk DVD-RW Optical Drive 18.5" LED Monitor Windows 7 Home Premium	Php 1,000,000.00
Provision of Printers	10 units - Laser Printer 5 units - Dot Matrix Printer	Php 1,000,000.00

2. The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), hereby invites all eligible contractors to apply for eligibility and to submit bids for the above contract.
3. Eligibility and bidding shall be open to all interested contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers, duly licensed by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and/or appropriate government agencies, with at least a valid mayor's/business permit issued by the city or municipality where principal office is located, and registered with the Philippine Government for the current year, and which meet the requirements of the contract.
4. Prospective bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by the interested bidders on the dates given below upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 1,000.00. The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidders or authorized representatives.
6. The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activity	Date/ Time
1. Issuance of Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid	December 01, 2010
2. Issuance of Bidding Documents	December 01, 2010
3. Pre-Bid Conference	December 8, 2010, 9:00 a.m., Board Conference Hall
4. Submission of Bids	December 17, 2010, 9:00 a.m., BAC Secretariat Office
5. Opening of Bids	December 17, 2010, 9:00 a.m., Board Conference Hall
6. Post-Qualification	December 20, 2010
7. Notice of Award	December 22, 2010
8. Notice to Proceed	December 29, 2010

7. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a Bank Cashier's/Manager's Check, Bank Draft/Guarantee, Irrevocable Letter of Credit issued by a Universal or Commercial Bank, or Surety Bond callable upon demand, in the amount of Php 20,000.00 (2% of ABC) and valid for a period of not less than 120 days from the date of bid opening.
8. The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
9. The Bids and Awards Committee shall not entertain any query or clarification from prospective bidders after the submission of bids.
10. For further information, please refer to:

Dr. Julio P. Diaz
Chief, BAC Secretariat
Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
Citystate Centre Building
709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
Tel. No. (632) 910-0141
Fax No. (632) 911-2179, 477-5149
bac@philhealth.gov.ph

Date: November 15, 2010

Approved:
DR. CECILIA C. JIMENEZ-BELMONTE
President and CEO

(PEN - Nov. 17, 2010)

More Classifieds on page
DepEd Division of Antipolo A7

ROLEX
LOUIS VUITTON

get hired www.jobmarketonline.com

BDO

Credit Cards

8 WINNERS of Php10,000 shopping credits EVERYDAY!

Every Php1,000 single receipt purchase, using your BDO MasterCard entitles you to one raffle entry and a chance to win Php10,000 daily or as much as Php5,000,000. So start using your BDO MasterCard now!

See flyers for details
Promo Period is from November 15, 2010 to January 22, 2011
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.6887 Series of 2010

We find ways

BUSINESS

Pancake converts ₱200M in notes to shares

By Paolo O. Montecillo

LUCKY FOOD services Jaime Wanchoo Bonnet Inc. has converted some ₱200 million worth of debt notes, held by two of its creditors, into common shares representing a 23.6-per-cent stake in the company.

In a disclosure, the company said in 3-year convertible notes, issued in 2008, would be "mandatorily converted" into 40.36 million common company shares, with a par value of P1 each.

At conversion price of about P4.88, the shares are worth P200.54 million equivalent to a 30.6-per-cent interest.

Aurora Southeast Asia Fund LLC will be given about three-fourths of the new shares. The amount is proportionate to the number of notes the lender holds.

In the meantime, Phoenix-based Avalon Capital Corp. will get the balance of the new shares.

After the conversion, Bancolo Holdings, owned by businessman Martin Lorenzo, will have an outstanding capital stock of 107.79 million common shares.

The transaction is part of an investment agreement entered into by Bancolo Holdings with the creditors. Under the agreement, Avalon and Phoenix-based acquired Pancake Bonnet's 3-year notes for P220.5 million.

The cash notes are convertible at the option of the investors at any time during the three-year period. At the end of five years, the notes are automatically converted into shares.

Pancake Bonnet earlier reported a consolidated net income of P26.96 million in the first three quarters, up 60 percent year-on-year from P22.1 million.

The profit came mostly from the Pancake House and Breadtalk Bake and Café chains, which together recorded P35.31 million in net income, up 60 percent from P16.8 million a year ago. The company sold its stake in Breadtalk.

Subsidiary Tenjuhl Bee Group Inc. contributed P9.6 million, up from P5.6 million, with more rubber and reduced costs.

Pancake House said it hoped to increase Tenjuhl Bay's profit with the launch of a Japanese steak restaurant chain under the "The Misible Prayers Steak" brand.

PCCI urges rehab of power plants to avert crisis

By Abigail L. Ho

TO ADJOINT the current power supply situation-setting for new generation plants to be built, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry is urging owners of power facilities to rehabilitate and upgrade their plants.

In a statement issued yesterday, the group said owners of power facilities, especially those previously owned by National Power Corp., should "devote special and aggressive focus to the rehabilitation, maintenance, and upgrading of their power plants."

The group cited the plants located in Luzon, in particular. The grid was projected to experience a power shortfall by 2013 or 2014. If no new capacity could be added soon.

Rehabilitating and upgrading existing plants would help boost current dependable capacity in the Luzon grid, as this would bring their output closer to their rated capacity and minimize unplanned outages.

"Bringing the capacity of these old plants near their nameplate rating should be able to bring in new 300 megawatts in the grid per year," PCCI executive chair Jose Alejandro said.

Aboitiz Power Corp., partner of Tokyo Electric Power Corp. to bid joint venture firm Trobl Energy Corp., has committed to rehabilitate and increase the generating capacity of the 1,200-MW Sual and 735-MW Pagbilao coal-fired power facilities.

The commitment was part of the investment package that President Benigno Aquino III secured during his visit to Japan two weeks ago for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

According to Trobl Energy president and chief executive Jon Aboitiz Puno, the company planned to expand the Sual facility by another 600 MW and the Pagbilao plant by as much as 400 MW.

Trobl Energy operates the Pagbilao and Sual plants under build-operate-transfer contracts.

While most of the demand was contributed to Luzon and the other major grids, PCCI said some investments should also be given to off-grid islands under Napocor's Small Power Utilities Group, as hundreds of cities, small and medium enterprises were operating there.

Then MORE, PCCI said, also needed help since they had little or no access to help themselves.

At the end of the day, PCCI president Francis Chua said both government and the private sector should work together to build power supply up and bring power costs down. This remains under the country more competitive.

MOTORING

High octane, high performance

Petron's release of new fuel stirs up competition

By Botchi Santos

WITH THE release of Petron's newest Blaze 1.00 Octane fuel, and the rumored launch of Shell's 99 or 100 Octane V-Power supposedly right around the corner, people are asking around who brags. We from those premium fuels, and what can I expect out of using those premium fuels.

What is octane rating? Octane is the fuel's resistance to combustion when subjected to elevated temperature and pressure, to put it simply. The higher the octane rating, the more heat and compression it can take before it combusts.

Let's tackle the first question: who benefits from using premium, high-octane fuels. The answer really is simple. Read your owner's manual. All cars have an advertised horsepower and torque rating achieved by using a specific type of fuel, representedby octane rating. Most market cars like your average Corollas, Lancers, Vios, Jazzes, etc. are designed to run with the lowest octane fuel available because these are meant to be cost and tooth to a variety of environments which may or may not have access to cheap, premium, high-octane fuels. Since these cars are your assured everyday means of transportation, you generally set the engine to no more than 5,500-6,000 rpm every day to fit right for the application and short bursts of speed in traffic or normal driving conditions. Since these cars are limited to this particular RPM range, the fuel need has to be efficient in terms of combustion at the RPM range. You need the fuel to combust quite easily and completely given the light load and low RPM operation. Hence, there's no need to use high-octane fuels for your everyday cars with normal driving habits and characteristics. High octane fuels in turn work most efficientlywhen exposed to the rigors of high performance applications such as continuous or sustained high-RPM operation, boost from forced-induced engines and high compression engines as well.

However, if you own a panoramic, high-end vehicle such as a sports car, a luxury GET or sedan or any high-performance car with a powerful engine or highly advanced emissions control equipment, you will definitely benefit from using premium, high-octane fuels. The benefits include:

1. Reduced chances of detonation —detonation, pinging or knocking occurs when the fuel injected into the cylinders ignites before it is supposed to, which is when the piston hits what is called top-dead center (TDC) upon rising travel of the piston in the combustion chamber). There are many causes such as very poor quality fuel with a low octane rating, heat from the previous combustion trapped inside the chamber, a lean condition (not enough fuel versus the amount of air present), an improperly timed ignition firing sequence or improperly gapped spark plugs, particularly on cars with an old distributor-type ignition system where engine performance is sensitive to spark plug gaps. Since higher octane fuels require higher temperatures and pressures to combust, it would be a perfect fit given the situation. Now however that if your car is mechanically out-tuned or in a poor state of tune (such as an improper air-fuel ratio, a spark plug with the wrong gap or improper ignition timing), using high-octane fuel will not solve the problem.

2. Decreased exhaust gas temperatures...cost on the track or your local track event, being on the limit of your operating RPM has serious consequences on your engine's service life. Increased temperatures is one of those areas that should be closely watched and monitored for your car's engine coolant and coolant temperature. But most people fail to check their exhaust gas temperatures (EGT for short). Even if a car is set to a properly tuned state, sustained high-RPM operation will elevate your EGT's to a level that can cause pre-ignition or detonation and basically start your engine's meltdown. Most cars can easily hold their redline steadily and safely for a few seconds at a time, going beyond that to a full minute is dangerous. Using high-octane fuel will help the engine run cooler and add some headroom for safety.

3. Increased power, torque and responses—this is the enthusiasts' favorite part. By increasing octane rating, tuners can extract more power out of their engines by increasing the amount of air versus the fuel, which can also lead to increased fuel efficiency (increasing ignition timing advance and increasing boost on forced induced engines). To maximize this, you'll need some form of piggy-back computer for your car's engine control unit or ECU to make the necessary adjustments. If you have an advanced tune of the air-fuel ratio, engine control unit, or even a later-model car with an ECU that can be re-

VIEW B8.1

The Chevrolet Cruze: Winning championships on the racetrack

THIS YEAR, Chevrolet has taken multiple championships in both local and international races with the all new Chevy Cruze. Unprecedently winning locally in the last two races of the Philippine Production Car Championships and winning internationally in the 2010 FIA World Touring Car Championship (WTCC) and the WTCC Driver's Championship pace car all-New Chevrolet Cruze on the forefront of all the championship wins.

Lately, the Cruze has been increasing its visibility on the roads of Manila, reinforcing its steadily growing popularity. Aside from the common car buzz, motoring enthusiasts are expressing more and more appreciation for the Cruze's sensibility with the development of its aftermarket components. So what does it take for a car, to-date a new platform, like the Chevy Cruze to gain such a huge success in the world of motorsports? Chevrolet-MOL shares an inside look at the racing success of the All-new Chevy Cruze.

It was the introduction of the 40-new Chevy Cruze into the WTCC (the FIA-sanctioned international race series regarded as the 1-1 of production cars) that inspired Chevrolet Philippines-The Covenant Car Company, Inc. (TCCCI) to develop a program that will go head-strong into the local motorsports.

Hence, the Chevy Motorsports Program (CMP) was conceived. CMP was designed to create activities that will add excitement and foster camaraderie among Chevrolet owners. Likewise, CMP seeks to develop products that will enhance the design, performance and overall desirability of Chevrolet vehicles.

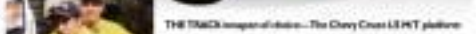
The initial project of the CMP Program was a race vehicle that aims to echo the global success of the WTCC race cars through its Philippine version—the Chevy Cruze Philippines Touring Car (PHTC). In partnership with Blanco Race Engineering, the Chevy Cruze PHTC is built on a stock Cruze platform—modified and tuned for racing in the local arena.

Being both a showcase and a race car, all modifications had to be both stylish and functional. BRE founder and head tuner Francisco "Pacho" Blanco pulled out all the stops to making sure the build is well up to par with the highest standards. The body panels were custom fabricated by Auto Bodyline and customized by SD Autodesign. It had to be lightweight yet sturdy enough to withstand the rigors of racing. Emphasis was also given to ease of installation, as body panels needed to be quickly replaced from race mode to car show mode and then back to race mode every now and then.

Engine modifications were kept to bolt-on upgrades. At one of the objectives of the program was to prove the reliability of stock components, the Cruze PHTC was left to run on stock internals, stock clutch and stock brakes. On the other hand, intake, headers and exhaust system were engineered and fabricated with the expense of

CHEVY motorsports program director Arby Arriola (front) and BRE founder Pacho Blanco

THE CHEVY Cruze PHTC setting the pace for its competitors during the last PPCC race.



THE TRACK images of choice—The Chevy Cruze LS PHT platform

Turnstall. All engine performance components were dynamometer-proven.

In the beginning, the suspension tuning was a challenge, as BRE had to fly overseas to get the design parameters and exactly the way Pacho Blanco desired it. At a track car, the suspension system had to be extremely capable and reliable to endure high G-forces lap after lap after lap. The current BRE coil-over system proved more than capable. Other race upgrades included stripped down interior, race-spec roll cage, Recaro seats, Momo Steering Wheel and Pedals, Cusco Gear Rims, Wilwood Tires.

As for Blanco and his team, developing and tuning a race car is a new platform is no easy task. It literally requires sleepless nights and countless hours of dawn and track testing. Although, having the first crack at tuning the Chevy Cruze and being part of the global aftermarket development makes it all worthwhile, as shared by Blanco and the CMP team. A car based on a new platform with new components and was intended by accommodating drivers make the worst back-to-back wins in the PPCC race series nothing short of remarkable.

The Chevy Cruze PHTC race car is powered by Chevy Motorsports Program in partnership with Blanco Race Engineering, K-Tuy Body kits, Autoplus, Transall, Kaspersky, 360 Autoshop, Dupont Paints, Concept One, Wilwilers, Motul oils, Recaro racing seats, Momo pedals and steering wheel, Turbo Large format Printing, Auto-Plus, Bernies clothing, Pugboy Graphics, Nanocraft and Loud-n-Invicta.

PORSCHE PANAMERA V6

Trading brawns for some brains

By Bondi Santos

GOOD THINGS always come in twos as they say.

A few months back, I had the pleasure of test-driving the almighty Panamera Turbo, a vehicle seemingly confused on whether it was a sports car or a luxury limousine. It had all the accoutrements of an executive limo-barge, yet it had enough grunt to embarrass all but the most insanely powerful exotics. In Porsche's own model line-up, only a 911 Turbo and the recently launched GT2 RS can out-accelerate the Panamera Turbo. Needless to say, challenging shape or not, I was impressed at what German obsessive engineering can accomplish.

So what happens when you lug off two turbocharged, two cylinders, two front-driven miles, 200 hundred of Germany's finest horses and an equal 200 lbs per foot of torque? Why, you end up with a perfectly capable sports sedan that roars past your built three of a regular sedan! Turbo accelerates to 100kph in 4.0 seconds according to Porsche's conservative test figures, and still top out at 300kmh, with the aid of Porsche's stunning PDK twin-clutch transmission, or Porsche Doppelkupplungsgetriebe for all you lovers of esoteric information, driving the rear wheels only.

I was initially cold at the thought of testing a V6 simply because also the Turbo, every single car I drove felt very very slow. The instant like wave of torque of the twin-turbo V8 had me seeing white lights at the end of the tunnel. The V6, I thought, would be rather cold and uninvolving.

So putting it to the acid test, I picked up two female friends and went on a jaunt to the south. Immediately, my own stock value had risen twofold when the ladies, normally reserved and very jaded, were practically all over me, saying how sexy my big 42 inch arms looked, and how macho my cologne, twenty feet with a 3-day stubble was. Maybe the ladies were seen something. Too bad the Panamera still rarely turns boss people including driver or I'd have brought more ladies.

On a deserted stretch of road, I floored the Panamera V6 and it pulled strongly to just a shade under 200kmh, belying its size, 3,000 curb weight and admirably modest for a Porsche 300hp and 295lbs/ft of torque. On the very winding roads down southern Tagaytay, the loss of the front chrome wheels blessed the Panamera, shed some smaller 18" wheels with grace and fluidity, steering feel remained to be 4WD, experts of unusual delight at my finger tips so to speak. Yes, I was quite swept away by precision and obsessive German engineering. My female friends were tickled pink just as I was at how well the Panamera handled the twisty bits. But all this macho driving had gotten us famished. So it was time for the second test: pose-tation.

Upon arriving at a seaside market/palengke-style restaurant just outside of the Mamy Cruise Club, people immediately caused their necks to crane and gawk at our silver sign-looking Cultured machine. Hushed voices as to whether it was a politician, a movie star, perhaps new marines idol Richard Gutierrez who is also a Panamera owner himself, was behind the wheel? Unbeknownst to the people there, it was just big ho cold me, with two exceptionally beautiful ladies on each side. Perhaps I was some rich idiot who paid his way to get everything, or so the people might have thought.

Regardless, the Panamera V6 is all the car you need to score all but the most discerning of car enthusiasts. With a base price of P6.7 million, it out-specs key rivals from Audi, Mercedes-Benz, BMW, Lexus and Jaguar. The Panamera feels rock solid, and very capable. There's a new engine start-stop feature, to do away with out of fuel economy that shuts down the engine while in traffic. Direct fuel injection means that the Panamera is roughly 12 percent 1% percent more efficient than an engine of similar size not featuring inline/port injection/swirling. Inside, it is power everything, as to be expected, but has some of the nicer features left out like a tilt/telle steering-wheel, manual comfort seats in lieu of the more supportive sports seats and special leather package that wraps up the interior completely.

DRIVE, it is power everything, as to be expected, with more supportive sports seats and special leather package.

But the important bits, the things that make a Porsche feel like a Porsche are present in the nicer bits of Panamera models. The heft of the controls, the responsiveness of the steering, brakes and throttle, the way the car behaves under duress, that rock-like solidity, there's no mistaking it for anything else but a Porsche.

We got better fuel efficiency too. I got about 4.5km/liter with the Panamera Turbo although I was admittedly bullying everything and everyone on the road, scaring the hejeezus out of slower moving objects. With the Panamera V6, I was able to get close to 7km/liter driving like a madman when road conditions permitted. With more careful driving, I think 8km/liter would have been achievable.

If you're so-sped freak but appreciate fine engineering, handling and want something different from the usual executive saloon out there, the Panamera V6 might just be for you.

AAP CARAVAN BOOSTS DRIVE TOURISM

PARTICIPANTS in the 2nd Automobile Association (AAP) Caravan led by AAP tourism commission chair Mina Gobay stop for a souvenir photo with Jan Nicolas, Batangas mayor Epifanio Sandoval after visiting the De La Salle Museum in Diamantina, Cavite, the CBD Museum in Sm. Trias, Cavite and the Basilica in Antonio Tuel Town, Batangas. The 25-car convoy was powered by Petron Blaze 100, the ultra high performance gasoline and was organized by AAP to promote its Drive Tourism campaign aiming to encourage AAP members and other car owners to go out and tour their own country.

FASTEST WAY WINNER

MITSUBISHI

Mazaro Philippines Corporation's first lucky winner of the Fastest Way to Win raffle promo, Eleanor de Leon-Limsuko receives from MMPC senior manager for sales administration Dante Colmo a brand new Mitsubishi Montero Sport GLS SE 4x4. Mitsubishi Fastest Way to Drive and Fastest Way to Win raffle promo will run until Dec. 31, 2010. Still to-stakes are two more Mitsubishi Montero Sport GLS SE 4x4 which will be raffled off on Dec. 8, 2010 and Jan. 12, 2011.

Catching up on competitiveness

DESPITE THE year-to-date sales growth of cars in the Philippines, car automakers industry still lags behind other Asian countries—particularly Thailand—on the issue of competitiveness. To catch up with their neighbors in terms of competitiveness, the Board of Investments is drafting the implementing rules and regulations for Executive Order 877-A, the Motor Vehicle Development Program (MVDP).

ON THE ROAD

Aida Arcilla-Mendoza

A paper presented by Ruperto M. Aldaba, Ph.D. of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies at the Thought Leadership Forum of the Automotive Industry Development Council (AIDC) last Thursday compared the motor industries in Thailand and the Philippines (PH) and showed why the PH is lagging behind. A senior research fellow at PIDS, Aldaba has done extensive research on the competitiveness of the auto industry in the context of globalization and regional integration. The removal of barriers to trade, she said, has intensified competition between automakers allowing foreign investment funds and consumers to benefit.

Aldaba pointed out that both the PH and Thailand heavily protected and regulated their auto industries in 1973-2003, limited the number of firms, required them to be 60 percent domestic content and banned CBU (completely built unit) imports from 1973 up to 1990.

Liberalization. The PH auto industry opened up starting in the 1990s, Aldaba said, with trade liberalization, the reduction of tariffs to 5 percent on most imports, which was followed by new tariffs in 2010, the lifting of the banon CBU imports in 1990, and changes in excise tax policy starting in 2005. 15 percent excise tax (ad valorem tax) on Asean-originated (AFTA) starting in 2008.

Thailand also had 30 years of protectionist policies combined with a local content program, but while the PH imposed the same high tariffs on all types of motor vehicles, Thailand lowered the tax on pick-up trucks, Aldaba said. This move developed a strong domestic market for pickups and now Thailand is the world's second biggest market, next only to the United States, for pickup trucks, and the regional export production hub for it as well.

The PH has no major assemblers Toyota, Isuzu, Mitsubishi, Honda, Nissan and Ford with modern Ionics Toyota enjoying 35 percent market share. Since 2003 when the bloc's Asean Free Trade Agreement reduced tariffs on Asean-made CKD to 5 percent, the gap between imports and domestic production has narrowed, Aldaba asserted. When AFTA resulted to zero tariff on the 5th year, order of CBUs (completely knocked down model) declined while MVs imports rose.

Problems. The PH lags behind Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia in value and production volume, Aldaba asserted, due to three basic problems. The first is the lack of economies of scale. The PH has a small domestic market, that's why production volume is below optimal levels. Six assemblers are producing 18 models. At 60,000 units total, the production comes to 3,300 units per model plus the smuggled units. Aldaba noted that there is a huge data gap from 2006 to 2009 in industry sales versus the Land Transportation Office's car registration figures.

The second problem, Aldaba said, is sub high production cost. 1.4 times higher than Thailand's. The PH has the highest energy cost in Asia and lacks infrastructure—these factors discourage investors from coming in. Third problem: car work supply base. PH Tier II suppliers (subcontractors supplying the needs of Tier I suppliers) are limited. While the PH has 1,124 Tier I suppliers, Thailand has 700 Tier I and 1,300 Tier II and III suppliers. In value Thai local content is 50-60 percent, PH only 15- 25percent.

Now how the industry responded to rising globalization and economic integration? Aldaba observed that Toyota Motor Philippines' (TMP) participation in Toyota's 80% depreciation/ 0-5% import duty (depreciation/duty) program is limited to the production of manual transmissions while the production of diesel engines went to Thailand and gasoline engines to Indonesia. MV investments and development also went to Thailand, the first time that a Japanese automaker's R&D was located outside of Japan, the US and Europe.

Exports. While TMP exports manual transmissions, Nissan-Universal Motor Corp. is basically into a trading firm, Aldaba said. Unfortunately, Nissan Motor Philippines is the only car assembler not included in the Philippine Automotive Competitiveness Council. And the automaker has been sold to Ford Group Philippines stopped exporting cars two years ago and has not renewed its export program. So much for the MVDP's recent statement that car assemblers should export their products to become environment-friendly companies.

Regarding EO 877-A and the Motor Vehicle Industry Council's task to provide policy direction and credit an industry development plan, Aldaba advised more collegial and consultative policies. The government should avoid reverting to tariff increases on non-Asean imports and/or increasing the local content requirement. Raising the excise tax on imports, she said, is disallowed by World Trade Organization agreements. The Aquo-Philippines Economic Partnership agreement (Japan) is the way, a due for general review in 2011.

Parts. Aldaba urged the government to develop the parts and suppliers sector, step ramping, implement temporary industrial adjustment schemes to improve competitiveness, specialize in niches, significantly improve processes and facilities, provide incentives that would promote competitiveness in R&D and new products.

Previously, for a company to enter the PH auto industry, 60 percent local content was required. This requirement has been abandoned and now car makers can source parts from any in the world they want. While there are certain parts that are still protected because they require improved materials, globalization and regional integration challenge PH parts manufacturers to deliver on time and with price and quality levels at par with the world.

Noting that the PH ranked 13th and last in a survey on Asia-Pacific competitiveness and fifth among 139 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report for 2010-2011, Aldaba concluded that to promote competitiveness, "The MVDP has failed even after several decades of protectionist policies. We need newer types of support that will work."

ALDABA (left) joins the other discussants of the Thought Leadership Forum: Jesus Arag and lawyer Claire Dyoko Cabochan.

ATTENDING the TLF are (from left) CATI Motors, Inc. president Felix Ang, CATI Motors chair Greg Fu, Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. president and CEO Fr. Perry dgado, Kia Likat Edward Go, Foton Motors president Raymund Syrio and Amada del Rosario, corporate affairs director of FGB Corp Inc.

High octane . . .

From page B2-1

Indeed, then these high octane fuels are definitely for you.

4. Lower emissions, cleaner engines—since you can run a slightly leaner air / fuel mixture with higher octane fuels, your fuel consumption should decrease while gas cleaner and your fuel efficiency increase, you'll have spark plugs that should last cleaner, longer, with reduced carbon build-up inside the engine which all leads to reduced emissions and fewer visits to the fuel spot. But again, this only applies if you have a car you can tune to use these fuels, or cars that require the use of high-octane fuels from the factory.

Lastly, the premium, high-end, high-performance luxury cars (Ferraris, Lamborghinis, Porsches, Audis, BMW's, Mercedes-Benzes and Lexuses) and high-performance motorcycle manufacturers have been using high octane fuels for decades, and their engines are designed around the use of these fuels.

Now, the question is, should you use high octane fuels in your car?

Well, if you have a car that is designed to run on high octane fuels, then you should definitely use high octane fuels. Otherwise, you will be losing out on the performance that your car is capable of delivering.

If your car is not designed to run on high octane fuels, then you should not use high octane fuels. Using high octane fuels in your car will not give you any benefits, and you will be wasting money.

Now, if you have a car that is not designed to run on high octane fuels, but you still want to use high octane fuels, you can do so, but you will not get any benefits from using high octane fuels. You will only be wasting money.

So, if you have a car that is not designed to run on high octane fuels, you should not use high octane fuels. You will only be wasting money.

Burnin' the Trackside

From page B2-4

of diesel fumes even when standing right beside or riding one, or one that was tipping the fuel hitter on the meter. The engine's exhaust gas recirculation system effectively reduces emissions of nitrogen oxide, a greenhouse gas. The ECR system has no need for additional maintenance, despite its meeting EU3 emissions regulations ahead of its implementation next year in Europe).

So the new diesel preserves the X-Trail's ability to deliver rapid, confidence-inspiring acceleration. The rest of the package is familiar and no less desirable. The cabin is impressively finished to a high standard, with plenty of metal trim thrown in for a more modern look. All the main features including the touchscreen display, is state-of-the-art. There's plenty of room for back adults, with a fold-down armrest with cup holders and a 12V power outlet. Outside, the car is powered by 17-inch alloy wheels, with a fifth possible despite the bulky transmission. Outside, the car is powered by 17-inch alloy wheels, with a fifth possible despite the bulky transmission. Outside, the car is powered by 17-inch alloy wheels, with a fifth possible despite the bulky transmission.

Octane rivalry

From page B2-4

what was told to me by from a business point of view all this is irrelevant to the bigger picture, as with focus on more profitable activities for the quarter.

Rick Petersen, since then new founder Thomas S. Ang, or TSA as he's known by friends, his self, the media and former st. risk, took the helm in a very much involved chairman of the board. Now he's a lot of news and stinks says, as the trade investor modified cars like the Lancer Evo, Subaru STI and Nissan 350 GTR, plus anything with a turbocharged engine or an engine with a compression ratio higher than 10.5:1 (such as Honda Accord, Mitsubishi turbocharged 4G63 and Toyota 4AGZE 20-valve engines) will benefit from using these fuels. Also, if you love to drive your car hard, if you race on an track or on regular track days and humans with your car club, using high-octane fuels will definitely benefit you a lot.

On regular cars, the factory engine control unit can sense the increased octane rating and adjust the fuel and ignition timing but only by a small amount. The owner of such cars, if he is still suspect and it reassurance to pass on these premium high-octane fuels and not for regular fuels instead.

Burnin' the Trackside Oil

Text and photos by Jerome R. Jing

JAGUARS ARE all about going somewhere very fast and in high style. That approach is best embodied by the XF midsize sedan. There are several entries in the midsize luxury field, but none has the sheer beauty of the XF. The car is distinctive, from the impressive headlamps to sharply sloping windshield to the swooping side profile. It even positions its rear seats differently from most sedans, with the XF's combination of tilt-like taillights and chrome accents.

The all-new XF was revealed two years ago, with its Philippine launch following last year. The car has been available only in choice of gasoline powertrains. Now Jaguar Cars Inc. is upping the ante with the introduction of a diesel variant, the XF Diesel 3.0.

This is actually a new generation of diesel engines, known as the third-generation common-rail system. There was a 2.7-liter V6 diesel available when the XF was launched in Manners. However, it's just as well that Jaguar Cars wanted for this one—because it obviously blows the previous generation away, and is also superior to many gasoline-power plants.

A glance at the spec sheet reveals some impressive numbers: 271 hp at 4,000 rpm and 600 lbs.-ft. of tq, at 2,000 rpm. 0-100 km/h in a quick 6.4 seconds, with an electronically limited top speed of 250 km/h. Fuel mileage for city driving is 10.5 km./liter, going up to 14.2 km./liter on the highway. Those figures are remarkable for a luxury sedan of the XF's caliber, but quite believable given our experience with state-of-the-art European diesels.

In put their money where their mouth is, Jaguar launched the XF Diesel 3 at the Clark International Speedway, in what is turning out to be a default venue for carmakers who want to impress with their new machinery. Jaguar's tactic was to not reveal the car's diesel specifications until the latter part of the session. Indeed, it was not obvious from just sitting in the car and driving it that it was a diesel. Only the 4500-rpm redline on the tachometer, and the dummy tail exhaust pipes were the dead giveaways.

Otherwise, the Jaguar proved to be as comfortable, tractable and as quiet as its gasoline sister cars which happened to be on hand at the track, too. If anything, the Jaguar diesel even gave out a subtle sound, similar to one in a Jaguar Alive all, if the engine doesn't purr, it doesn't really belong in a Jag.

All the usual bells and whistles, including the touch-screen display, is state-of-the-art.

The recipe for the smooth power delivery and immense torque is familiar, but brought to a higher level by Jaguar's technical team. The 2.7-liter V6 uses four valves per cylinder, twin turbos, piezo injectors for precision fuel metering, and a high-pressure fuel line (the "common rail"). The innovations here are that the turbochargers are brought on line sequentially with the pumps turbo being used for most of the driving. The secondary turbo remains offline during this time, to conserve energy. Above 2000 rpm, the second turbo kicks in within 300 milliseconds to boost output even further. The result is that outstanding (for a diesel) 271 hp output.

On the track, the Diesel 3 did not run out of steam. Short moderate stretch give a strong push off idle, then apply to plateau as power past 2000 rpm. The XF moved smoothly on the power, even through the straightaways of Clark's "short" layout. The six-speed automatic was well-matched to the engine, shifting up smoothly and staying in gear through tight turns. There is a pair of paddles to activate manual shifting mode, but then the rotary dollies in Sport mode, and it's smart enough to handle every on-track driving.

It's a credit to the new engine and to Tata's diesel fuel that there was never any smell

SUMMIT B3 >

Octane rivalry

IN THE last few months, we've witnessed the launch of a variety of premium gasoline and diesel fuels. Shell muscle with a huge name with the launch of their V-Power diesel fuels, made all the more impressive by the fact that a diesel powered car has yet again won the Intercontinental Le Mans 24 Hour Race, one of the triple crown events in Motorsports (the other two being the Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix and the Indianapolis 500). Petron was rather cheeky and unveiled their new Turbo Diesel without much fanfare. Regardless, owners of the latest CRDi turbocharged diesel-powered vehicles were running their fuels, as fuel quality has always been a concern for CRDi diesel engine vehicle owners, and a modest improvement in Isuzu's premium diesel fuel so the vast majority of privately owned diesels are now CRDi-powered and the trend will only continue to grow as people discover the hidden cost of owning a turbo-diesel vehicle for everyday driving. As a whole, the Philippines is predominantly a diesel market, accounting for about 60 percent of the total fuel market in the Philippines.

Once Japan, Polaris released their Shell 100 Octane to almost absolute secrecy. The public was amazed and enthusiasts were even subdued, some pinching themselves, trying to make sure it was a huge but very sweet dream. Suddenly, 100 octane fuel was available at the pumps!

This was supposedly a preemptive strike at Shell, as Petron's camp believe the five-digit fuels could unseat their rumored Power 100 Octane V-Power. I've asked Shell through its representatives and have been left unanswered at the time of this writing. So doubt their pipelines are the problem (on basis of the more serious rumors), already forcing the temporary closure of several their retail outlets in the Metro. I do hope Shell will be able to fix their pipeline problem soon.

Skid Marks

Botchit Sawtee

From a business point of view I can, however, it makes little sense to release a premium, high octane fuel in the segment economics a merely 1 to 5 percent of the market according to the kind people at Chevron who've been "educating" us and I asked them what they plan to do now that their two only premiums in the big three playing field have been cannibalizing sales and eliminate to their Turbo line-up and the answer I got was, unfazed vague and less pointed. I just hope Chevron considers relaxing their Caltex Vortex Platinum 99/100 Octane fuel which is already available in other Asia and Oceania markets.

Asking a representative of PhysgA fuels, the source simply said, that although they have no specific plans (or no how to) take those developments in the market. They plan to follow and see where the end pulse of the market is and address that. My interpretation of

OCTANE B3 >

Special

MOTORING

Editor Jong S. Arcano

Toyota's 10 stellar months in 2010

The country's leading auto company has a lot to be thankful for in this Thanksgiving weekend

By Alvin Uy

TOYOTA MOTOR Philippines (TMP) recently announced that it broke its 22-year-old sales figure within its first 10 months of online sales performance.

The year 2010 has been auspicious in many ways for the country's top automotive brand—it has enjoyed 20 consecutive months of record-breaking sales, it has sold 9,502 units in the 10th month (October) of 2010, it's likely scoring its 3rd by another Triple Crown title.

The Triple Crown award is given in recognition for an auto company's achievements in overall market leadership. This will be TMP's sixth Triple Crown title and with two months left in the year, TMP has already surpassed its 2009 year-to-date sales of 46,110 units as its sales for the months between January to October of 2010 has hit 46,503 units.

Leo Gordon, Toyota held a mini caravan where cars were sold on a discount and on easy payment terms. The sales blitz places the brand on a year-to-date market share of 33 percent within the 10-month period.

Since the start of its operation in 1988, Toyota has been number one for 20 years in terms of annual sales, according to Raymund Rodrigues, First Vice President for vehicle sales operations.

"We are very thankful to our customers, whom we attribute our success to over the last two decades. We have surpassed our record sales in 2009 of 46,395 units with still two months left in the year. Also, we have achieved ten consecutive months of record-breaking sales. We wish to thank our customers for making Toyota the number one brand. Toyota's successful formula of QDR – Quality, Dependability and Reliability makes us strive to further improve our products and services. Taking care of our customers is our priority," said Rodrigues in a modest interview at the exclusive Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club in Cabuyao, Laguna.

Rodrigues's comments during a Thanksgiving weekend at their "Toyota's Cherished and Coveted" media and sales figures derived from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (Camp) places the world's number six brand also on top of FPJ's auto industry for Lexus is the premium brand of Toyota and has been to the local market for just two years. It has recently launched its LS600hL and RX450h hybrid models. Including Toyota's Prius, it has engaged in the most aggressive green initiative for any brand in the country. Lexus accounts for 9.4 percent of the company's medium and sports luxury segment with it accounts for 18.6 percent in the large vehicle luxury segment.

In the finer analysis

Toyota's October performance gained an aggressive 37 percent market share of 5,202 units in its passenger category captured a 40.4 percent share with 2,050 units sold. The 8 latecomer of its marques dominated role of its Vios, Altis and Camry models. These models took top positions in their respective segments. The popular Vios model accounted for 33.2 percent in the sub-compact segment, claiming its post again at 40% ownership on with 1,409 units sold in October. In the equally competitive commercial vehicle category, Toyota accounted for 35.7 percent market share, selling 9,189 units. The known van also the bestselling commercial vehicle in the market with total sales of 1,096 units.

With total year-to-date sales reaching 141,318 units, it points to a 33 percent year-on-year growth for the entire industry. Even as Toyota continues to lead the pack, its 33 percent year-to-date market share is slightly lower than its 34.9 percent market share in its previous year. The market has grown by one-third of its previous size and with more brands in the market, this can be considered as a slight setback and possibly be attributed to more brands and models that has entered the market. Even if Toyota will still lose than its monthly sales average to its last quarter, all indications point that it will meet its yearend target of 57,000 units, a 23 percent increase from the previous year. This will prove that TMP will have a banner year for 2010.

Unlike its North American market, it seems like the ghost of Christmas past will not be haunting the Philippine market, as Camp's figures will indicate, the luxury car members point to a strong brand confidence for Toyota's image of reliability and value for money proposition will hold strong in the market.

Swings of perfection

Lexus Invitational at Sta. Elena gathers owners for a weekend joust

Change is Powerful

The force of the Dual VVT-i engine is now found in all variants of Toyota Corolla Altis.

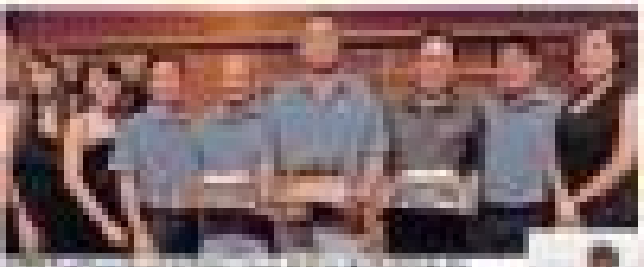
The new Toyota Corolla Altis throws in a staggering change that will definitely blow you away – all variants boast of a Dual VVT-i engine that will surely give you higher power, exceptional fuel efficiency, and lower exhaust emissions that can harm the environment. Not to mention, its revamped look and modified interior will definitely leave you in awe. Change is always exciting. Experience the thrill first hand, experience the new Toyota Corolla Altis.

THE NEW COROLLA ALTIS

DUAL VVT-i

TOYOTA
moving forward

Swings of p



erfection

Come feel the Power of

EXCEPTIONAL TECHNOLOGY. EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE.
THE LEXUS FULL HYBRIDS.

For decades, Lexus has led the development of hybrid technology. Today it offers a wide range of the most advanced Full Hybrid vehicles. Lexus Full Hybrid technology can power the car on electricity alone or intelligently combine it with power from the gasoline engine, delivering exceptional performance in so many ways.

EXHILARATING POWER
Through the Lexus Full Hybrid power train, you harness the power of 2 engines, experiencing ultimate speed with utmost power and performance.

ADVANCED ENGINEERING
The world's first Electronically-controlled Continuously Variable Transmission (ECVT) engine intelligently synergizes the electric and gasoline engines.

REFINED DRIVE
An ultra quiet electric motor allows for smooth, powerful acceleration and an unparalleled, quiet driving experience.

LOWER EMISSIONS
Because it is a Lexus Full Hybrid, carbon emissions are more than 20% lower than those of regular combustion engines at a similar capacity.

UNSURPASSED FUEL EFFICIENCY
Through the combination of electricity and gasoline, Lexus Full Hybrids give you the performance of a higher capacity engine at a lesser fuel consumption.

THE LEADER IN LUXURY FULL HYBRID.

THIS IS THE POWER OF

LEXUS

The Pursuit Of Perfection

LEXUS MANILA, INC. | 3402 8th Avenue Corner 34th Street Fort Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig 1634 | Tel (632) 8816 5050 | www.powerofh-asia.com

Editor Thelma Sioson San Jose

LIFESTYLE Home & Entertaining

Pottery Barn and Crate and Barrel supplier now taps local consumers

Pampango manufacturer of 'feel-good furniture' has in its portfolio Celine Dion's Malabar chair

By Irene C. Pena

THE 34-YEAR-OLD furniture and home accessory maker in Pampanga, which has been supplying the prestigious Williams-Sonoma Group, is making its product available to the local market.

Call'ars supplies such famous lifestyle outlets as the Williams-Sonoma Group (Williams Sonoma Home, Pottery Barn and West Elm); Crate and Barrel; Restoration Hardware; Mirkenzie; Pak-

PAPERS 12

THE MILANO RESIDENCES

INTERIOR DESIGN BY VERSACE HOME

THE FIRST LUXURY PRIVATE RESIDENCES IN ASIA
INTERIOR DESIGNED BY VERSACE HOME

www.milanoresidences.com.ph

CENTURY PROPERTIES GROUP

CENTURYCITY

Call: (632) 818-9041
(63) 917-5555- CPI (274)

LIVING room set with orange cushion for a pop of color

"FLOATING" black bed with bright satin pillows on Oriental accent

LOUNGE chair and matching foot stool with canvas cover has been removed to form a divan

Pottery Barn and Crate and Barrel supplier now taps local consumers

CANDLE holder made of varnished "recovered" twigs

DETAIL of Prince Dining room bed and rectangular table

CALFURN also specializes in outdoor furniture for resorts.

From page D1

ook Dillard's.

Organic, sleek, minimalist and easy on the eye with some Asian touches—that's the trend in furniture, according to this one-stop Chinese brand.

Even before "sustainable" became a buzzword in home décor, Calfurn Bldg. Philippines, Inc. has been making pieces using swell-chosen indigenous materials, says brand chair Evelyn F. Feliciano.

The items evoke warmth and grace. The beds and chairs are inviting, practical and low-maintenance—authentic conquistadors of style and function.

The most notable Calfurn piece is the Malabon chair, whose singer Celine Dion was photographed in in a 2001 issue of People Weekly magazine.

The Malabon chair is described in Pottery Barn's catalogue as "made of honey-colored rattan that's woven and wrapped around a sturdy wood frame, offering the same durable-without-cumbersome bound in our top-beloved pieces. The coordinating ottomans can be used as a footrest or casual seating."

It has sold around 50,000 units, according to Feliciano.

Other Calfurn bestsellers include table lamps with a glass base filled with seashells; wooden bed frames in various sizes with matching night stands; desk and lounge chairs; solid-wood bar stools, even pet beds.

Tropical and bright

According to Feliciano, most items customize some gentle rattan cues that make you feel like you are in a resort.

"There are the same items that can be found in posh vacation spots around the world."

The finely handcrafted living room sets give a tropical, year-long summer feel—what Feliciano describes as "much-needed."

The outdoor pieces are treated to withstand intense exposure to sunlight, winds, and salt-sprayed water.

Calfurn knows its small-scale beginnings in supplies City Pompanglo Bilimoria and partner Angelo R. Bollozos, now company president, saw a market for "feel-good" furniture in the Soriano American haven in Clark and Subic. They started making rattan chairs that were a hit with the foreigners.

Soon, through savvy marketing, they started importing to Australia, Europe and Asia.

CONTEMPORARY dining table chairs in different materials, finishes and designs

CALFURN founder Evelyn F. Feliciano

WHITE finish version of a fresh take on "rattan" furniture pieces such as these garden chair and table set.

POOL couch, covered in withstand cushion set and ottoman with coal-and-white-striped stripe upholstery

CARVED detail on the back of striking chair made of dark wood, offset by white cushioning

YOUNGER diners prefer modern shapes such as these lamps with semi-transparent shading base, and triangular coffee table in yellow and black.

Weaves

Most of the new materials are weaved here. For the sofas and lounge chairs, rattan, wicker from Indonesia, sea grass, bamboo canes, abaca are used. The technique gives this home that play of textures that is Calfurn's trademark.

Wood cabinets, beds, trunks are usually made of narra and lumegang. Glazing and dyes are used to achieve colors of wood tones, although some clients prefer white, deep brown or black finishes.

As part of its sustainability thrust, Calfurn employs an all-Filipino team—from the designers to the factory employees. It also makes use of found objects, as in the case of last year's Tropical Storm Ondoy.

Says Feliciano, "A lot of trees fell, and we rescued them, dried them up and made them into coffee table pieces, because otherwise they would just rot," says Feliciano.

But while Calfurn is "Caribbean beach-ier" aside items with high-end foreign buyers in mind, it is now tapping local homeowners to buy and appreciate "native" Asian pieces.

To supplies local hotels, but Feliciano is hoping more ordinary Filipinos can include Calfurn pieces in their homes. The company can also custom-make for smaller condominium spaces. A catalogue is available online at www.calfurnph.com.

Calfurn is at Mango Road, Helenghaha, 2009 Angeles City, Pampanga. Visit www.calfurnph.com.

Hospital owner responds to patient 'detention' issue

DR. EDGARDO Dimayuga, a practicing physician and owner of a 25-bed hospital in Mexico Manila, emailed before, before to the Nov. 9 and 17 columns about hospitals detaining patients for nonpayment of bill.

Dimayuga said promissory notes from patients "are no good to nothing, even if you have them notarized." From his experience in hospital administration, he said 99.8 percent of promissory notes were never paid, "leaving the hospital and doctors holding the bag, so to speak."

Most patients, who signed promissory notes never returned to settle them, he said. They also ignored and avoided calls from the hospital. Some emailed even change their addresses and mobile phone numbers, making it even more difficult to track them down, Dimayuga added.

Suing owing patients was not easy to do, especially if a hospital was small. Dimayuga said hundreds of small private hospitals did not even have the money to hire debt collection people, much less lawyers.

The "unreasonably slow rulers of justice in this country," he said, also meant it would take years before one can even remotely recover back its investments in the part of hospitals.

Dimayuga said there were many unsolved ethical or patients who would undergo expensive medical procedures, then tell the doctors matters ultimately that they did not have the money to pay their bills.

Even pregnant women, he said, would go to the hospital to deliver their babies, then claim they were not able to prepare the money for their confinement because it was an "emergency."

Dimayuga asked how the delivery would be an emergency when a woman was pregnant for nine months? The patients, he said, would then go to the media to complain about doctors and hospitals.

Dimayuga said hospitals were also businesses and had to earn a profit to survive. They had to pay their employees, buy equipment and medical supplies.

The Consumer

Zarate B. Bolido

He said it was all right that the government was trying to help the poor, but it should also protect and support private hospitals. The government should preferably enforce unpaid promissory notes since no one else would, he added.

'Caterers' on a bus

Planning a party but you think your family or your gang will be too expensive to bring anywhere public?

Shakey's now has the solution. You do not have to go to Shakey's. Shakey's will come to you to provide all the pizza, pasta and chicken, as well as Coca-Cola products, you want.

Launched as part of Shakey's 35th anniversary, the Shakey's On Wheels will be brought to you by a team of three 12-meter All model Hyundai bus. The vehicle is custom-built to accommodate all the requirements of a fully equipped, full-service restaurant. It can serve any number of persons, from intimate Shakey's dishes and Coca-Cola beverages anywhere and anytime.

The food preparations facilities follow the universal health and sanitation standards.

Call 8700414, 4700611 ext. 128 or e-mail shakeysonwheels@shakeyspizza.ph.

Send letters to the Consumer Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th/6th floor Media Res. 20 Media cards and figure this., 1201 Makati City; fax 897-4793-96; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph.

"Lulu," by Herberto Caroling

University of the East holds 'Christmas of Togetherness'

THE UE ALUMNI Association Inc. (UEAA) and UE Knights Inc. (UEK) jointly celebrate the Yuletide season with "A Christmas of Togetherness" on Dec. 11, 6 p.m., at Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

The event features special guest artists/stars who will render songs and present dance numbers to make the occasion jovial.

This gathering is also a good way to welcome the incoming UE Knights, namely entrepreneurs Ernesto Chua Ce Kiong, engineer Ferdinand L. Figueroa and Lydia E. Medrano, and lawyers Alicia Risos-Vidal, Rosanito J. M. Rivera, Wilhelmi B. Soriano and Rafel Tan.

UEAA president Ed Belardo S. Chan and UEK national commander Antonio Calanog invite fellow officers and members to join the event.

Confirm attendance by calling 3845783 or 3811 8808/811 (Tess Cua); 3130738 or 9911-5402113 (Rene Grace); 735-5471 loc. 218, or 8810-1034811 (Mars Marcelino); 9131888 or 0917-5336969 (Chanjoe Alfonso); 5884522 or 0917-6281742 (Tess Macaraig).

Writing workshop for adults

Trevor Bond Reyes will hold a writing workshop for college students and professionals starting Dec. 4 at Bookay Tower, 163 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati.

The workshop runs for seven Saturdays.

The workshop covers a review of grammar and word usage; qualities of good, effective writing; improving one's style; essay writing; features writing; business report writing; journalism; scriptwriting.

Participants may choose between the morning session or after-lunch session. Slots are limited. For details, call 8154026 or 9156823; e-mail trb@yahoo.com.

Carating at Magnet

Starting Saturday, "New Works" is on view until Dec. 5 at Magnet Arts in Makati. His distinctive collaborations of paint strokes resulting to mixed-textured surfaces that resemble fine woven mats of copper and silver whose divergent settings cast lights of luster and shadow to even footfalls. This is a mostly worked in his work "Silver Over Gold." In "Meditation," brushstrokes/textures emerge over the pewter hue crosshatched streams of tan fine lines.

Early Christmas for orphans and streetchildren

THE GREENHILLS Christmas Display, below, kids from Wilcon Cross Children Home and San Juan Department of Social Welfare and Development

SOME 600 orphans and streetchildren of San Juan were treated to a very early Christmas, with magic shots, games, food and loot bags as Greenhills Shopping Center (GSC), during the recent opening of its animated show with the theme "Christmas in Wonderland."

Mother Francisca Joseph Ricardo, Imelda Aruguay Estrada, San Juan Mayor Guia Gomez and Rep. JV Ejercito joined GSC owner Alex Reyes and members of the Ortigas family in welcoming the GSC event's special guests, all seven years old and below, from the Wilcon Cross Children Home and San Juan Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Representing the GSC owners Ortigas & Company Limited Partnership were Jaime, Fernando and Ignacio Ortigas with wife Margo.

The show's accessories were TV hosts German Moreno and Antoi Ignacio.

This Christmas attraction first opened at GSC Department Store in Manila in 1957, moved to Cubao in the '70s, and finally found its home in GSC in 2003. Its changing annual theme has been a source of excitement, anticipation and surprise for its ever increasing following from all over the Philippines. Its opening is traditionally perceived as the official start of the country's Christmas season.

CGG owner Alex Reyes, the Ortigas family and the Estrellas open the animated Christmas display at Greenhills Shopping Center.

It also highlights GSC's popularity as a favorite Christmas-shopping hub, right market and world-renowned bargain center, being the country's pioneer in bargain, or flea market.

Situated in the heart of San Juan, Metro Manila, GSC has a total land area of 10.1a and gross floor area of 100,000 sq m, housing over 1,200 stores and 2,000 tenants offering a wide variety of value-shopping, dining and entertainment choices.

Attracting a daily average of 300,000 local and foreign shoppers, it is open 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and up to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Save energy by up to 40 percent with new lighting solutions

ROYAL PHILIPS Electronics underscores the role of energy-efficient lighting solutions in the creation of more livable urban environments in Asia.

Speaking during a visit to Indonesia, Rudy Provoost, CEO of Philips Lighting and chair of the Philips Sustainability Board, urged urban planners in Asia to make full use of the latest lighting solutions to transform urban environments and create greater urban well-being through the enhancement of residential safety and security, city identity, commercial activities and environmental sustainability.

Given the swift pace of economic progress in Asia, there has been a rapid urbanization of Asian societies, with a growing trend toward population migrating from rural to urban centers. Urban planners across Asia are grappling with the challenge of balancing economic progress with the sustainable development of their urban environments, which are seeing rapid increase in their energy self-sufficiency. In 2010, more than 42 percent of people in Asia live in urban areas. By 2030, this proportion is projected to increase to 54.1 percent.

"The challenge facing the private and public sector in Asia is how to create a balance between economic competitiveness and environmental sustainability," Provoost said. "At Philips, we believe energy efficient lighting solutions have a big role to play to help big Asian cities develop their urban communities in a more sustainable manner."

Research indicates that public and commercial buildings represent 40 percent of lighting electricity consumption globally. Through urban infrastructure renovation programs, a switch to new, energy efficient lighting technologies could help achieve an estimated energy saving of up to 40 percent.

Philips aims to improve urban well-being with innovative lighting solutions, helping mayors and municipalities make their cities safe and livable for all citizens, while understanding the importance for cities to build a unique brand identity and support city beautification. Its solutions help cities become more sustainable, using energy efficiency and saving costs.

LIFESTYLE Home & Entertaining

Students use color to tell design story

From turquoise to saffron and avocado

By Anne A. Jamboro

A BURST of colors marked this year's interior design exhibit by the Philippine School of Interior Design Class 2010.

Sunflower, avocado, cinnabar, turquoise, sage—these were among the 16 colors interpreted by 46 graduating students in the show, "Unbridled: Color, Character, Cause and Case."

From whimsical kitchens to futuristic dining rooms, the designs showcased the audacious vision of young creative minds.

Bubble chair flown in from Dubai, home accents recovered from storage, recycled materials, retro-chic Madonna and ... Queen of the moment Lady Gaga—this year's batch drew from a wide swath of inspirations and icons.

Japanese origami took a larger-than-life form in lavender. The living room had tapered angles to give depth and dimension. Lighting was designed around the origami structures—a combination of different shades of green on the wall.

Small circles and big circles were the visual highlight of Yasmine Quirky and fun, this kitchen was predominantly red and constructed like a Lego—modular. Modular furniture, such as chairs, could be rearranged to save space.

The dining area was a bright, happy Sunflower. A crystal chandelier—which made good conversation piece—hung in a lovely swirl at the center of the table.

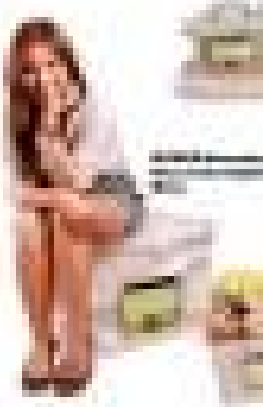
A mirror ball in the bath? Inspired by Lady Gaga, the Aubergine bathroom was

STUDENTS, D2

"TURQUOISE," by Karina Cacin, Jasmin de Icuna, Michaela Pangilinan, Chodette Pallisar and Marielle Yeung

Family-friendly condo with vast, active spaces rises

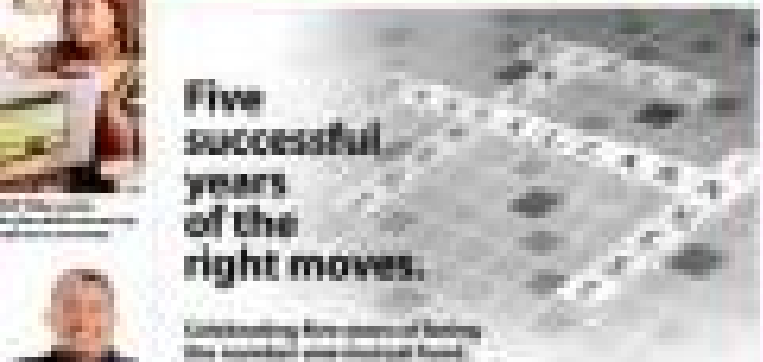
How Judy Ann keeps a well-organized home



German expert reveals latest in Christmas décor trends

Sleepsil

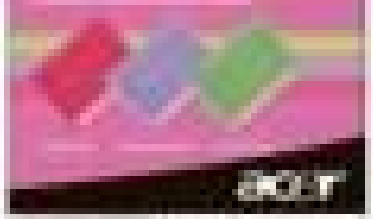
SPECIAL OFFER! ₹5,995.00



Five successful years of the right moves.

Simplilearn

iAsk



acer

"CHATEAUX," by Pat Author Choi, Rita Cuaso and Frans Luen

Students use color to tell design story

From page B1

a hip and happening room, with a mirror ball above the circular bed. A mini race car wound around the bath.... all Old World products.

Contributors kitchen married the old Irish tiled country feel with modern materials. It used an unconventional color for a kitchen—blue—enhanced with the addition of utensils such as gray and beige. The exposed pipes of the ceiling and the metal lamps gave the kitchen an industrial feel, a nod to the country's history as well.

The "spicy" bathroom, as the bathroom was called, used velvet drapes for that rich, sensual feel. The bed's circular columns and the hand-painted image of monk on the wall gave the bathroom a distinct Asian feel.

Downstairs, the kitchen was a refreshing light green. Its ceiling was made of textured paper cut into shaped java triangles held together by nylon strings—playful and eye-catching. The ceiling resembled a jigsaw puzzle, with tiny circles. Round objects, such as circular bar stools, softened the look.

The living room/purpose showed off images of Audrey Hepburn to create a glam environment. The floor-to-ceiling mirror created the illusion of space. A rectangular shelf at the corner, filled with dark-colored books and charcoal-colored vases, lent warmth.

Other colors interpreted included Sage, Cerulean, Indigo, Midnight, Heliotrope, Cactus, Baby de Brun, Chinchilla, Petrified Forest and Cinnamon.

"TOMATO," by Margaret Jabs, Karina Lopez, Veronica Tan, Maria, Czara Martinez and Sung Jone Park

"AVOCADO," by Xyra Arevalo, Sandra Enriquez, Roxanne Gonzales, Heather Rivera, Katrina Ip and Terrence Yu

"SAFFRON," by Johanna Pamish, Hannah Ortho, Catherine Pingco and Karen Tia

"CINNABAR," by Eusebio Casanova, Lonely Tan, Marlene Ong, Jeevaan Sit

"CORNFLOWER," by John Arciaga, Marisol Florentino, Albert Ibasco, Amelia Francisco and Lorraine Pruneda

"ALABESCHE," by Ignacio Bragonia, Francesca Diaz, Shaja Perani, Meg Policarpio, Margaret Soriano, Marissa Quindoy

LIFESTYLE Parenting

News Travels Fast. So Do Germs! Act Fast.
hygienix
THE NEW MOISTURIZING HAND SANITIZER SPRAY
KILLS 99.9% GERMS
zero worries
GRAB ONE NOW

From Argentina to Alaska, and now, Manila–if only Immigration would allow them

Argentinian couple sees the world, lives their dream—'Don't be afraid that something might happen, be afraid that nothing will happen'

By James Gabrillo
Contributor

CANDELARIA and Herman Zapp and their kids—all born in different parts of the world

ASHAMED OF YOUR DARK UNDER-ARMS?

THIS IS NOT your usual family road trip.

On Jan. 31, 2000, Herman, a 31-year-old electrician, and Candelaria, a 28-year-old secretary, left their hometown of Boston, Mass. to begin a journey that changed their lives. Driving a 1928 Graham Paige car with a 35 mph limit, they traveled from Argentina to Alaska for close to three years.

On the way they floated 4,000 km down the Amazon River with their car on a makeshift raft, dined on smoked monkey with Aboriginal Indians, and gave birth to their first child.

Now, more than 10 years later, Candelaria and Herman Zapp are still on the road, traveling with their four children, all of whom were born in different parts of the world: Ilompu, 8, born in the US; Tehue, 5, in Argentina; Paloma, 2, in Canada, and Stalinky, 1, in Australia.

The couple met when she was 6 and he was 10. As kids, they read about other people's adventures instigating the world through trains, buses and motorcycles. They told themselves, why don't we do this someday?

Four years later, they started dating. Ten years after, they got married. Six years into the marriage, they agreed to chase their childhood dream together.

"When we left, we told everyone we were going to be back in six months," Candelaria says. "We don't plan so much. Everything happens. For example, our original itinerary was to go from New Zealand to Indonesia. But a shipment company offered to take us for free to Japan. So we said, okay, take us to Japan! We go with the surprise."

At Bel-Air, Makati

The family ended up staying for two months in Japan and then another two in Korea. The Zapps are now in the Philippines, living with Stalinsky's Joe Kilby, his Filipina wife and their three children at their home in Bel-Air, Makati.

"When we arrived here, we were renting a small apartment. Then we met Joe by accident and he invited us to stay in his home," Herman says.

The Zapp family has been treated with this very hospitality wherever they went. During their 14-month journey across the US and Canada, they only stayed in a motel for 14 nights. The rest of the time they were living in homes of other families.

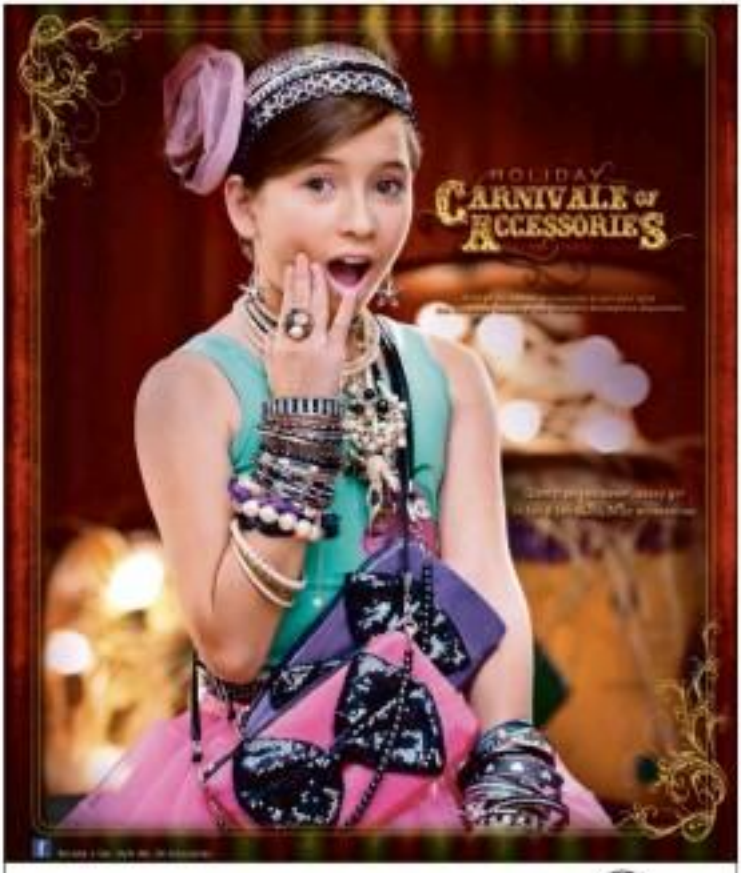
Whenever the couple reminisces about their unmissable experiences on the road, they usually remember not the places, but the faces that have embossed them inside their homes.

"In Peru, we once stayed with a family who lived in a tiny room," recalls Herman. "The floors and walls were not in their best state. But they shared with us all the food they had. Their kids slept on the floor for us. They couldn't even afford to buy them shoes. The next day when we were saying goodbye, they told us, 'We're very sorry we couldn't give you anything.' But they gave us everything!"

To date, the family has visited more than 2,000 homes.

"It doesn't matter if you're in the best hotel, for free. What would you prefer: that or camping with your friends?" Herman says. "Just because you're tall doesn't make you a bigger person. Just because you have more

FROM E1



www.sminstore.com
SM DEPARTMENT STORE

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIH BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY BY PHILIPINO

DICK TRACY

LOVE SHOTS BY ELIZABETH HOMONGLO

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

KIKO MACHINE BY PANKA ABRERA

SEPH BY DANIEL SHELTON

ANG DRAYBER BY EDGELO & EDJANICE

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

TULDOK BY MARA COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 20) This is a lovely day to work. It's also a good day to make travel plans, especially travel for pleasure. You will enjoy your experiences in beauty, in tranquility, and harmony. Unfamiliar, contemporary buildings and spaces appeal to you.

TAURUS (April 21 to May 21) This is a good day to discuss ideas or share something, especially an adventure or worthwhile experience with someone. You will be pleased with the way things flow in a pretty hard truth you and them will seek for.

GEMINI (May 22 to June 20) Socializing with partners and close friends are your tasks. Communicate via opens and cooperative. Lively conversation with others.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Co-workers are very supportive today in fact, groundbreaking workplace issues might be the topic in which of acquaintances and friends like to work.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Romance, romance, parties, and get-togethers. Results and solutions can be shared today. Social activities with others are full of delight. This is a wonderful day for creative fun!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You'll enjoy lovely discussions today. You can make many of those. Invite the gang over. Do something that makes others and be hard aware of. Creative talents appear spontaneously.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You can make money writing today. You are on video today. Through video, calling, teaching, you can do something. You have the gift of gab. Communicate with others. Your words are very persuasive. Clear today. You are in the love life! will become generally lovely today. If tempting, you will buy beautiful things for yourself and loved ones.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can make many writing today. You are on video today. Through video, calling, teaching, you can do something. You have the gift of gab. Communicate with others. Your words are very persuasive. Clear today. You are in the love life! will become generally lovely today. If tempting, you will buy beautiful things for yourself and loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) It's easy to have years of speech when talking to others today. You will share important ideas and thoughts that you want, because this makes you easy and to use. Guiding light.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You have the ability to be an authority and possess confidence and to accomplish today. In addition, you good natural leadership. You are the source for others deciding.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Your group involvement will please you today. Parties it's a good opportunity to socialize with others. Even a large gathering, you relate to everyone beautifully! Have success.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) This is an excellent day to get to friends, parents, partners and kids. Your positive charm will please everyone. Romance with someone older is more likely! Laugh.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs and www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	5	1	9	6	3	2	7	8
7	9	8	2	4	5	6	1	3
6	3	2	1	7	8	4	9	5
1	6	7	3	5	4	9	8	2
2	8	5	6	9	1	3	4	7
9	4	3	8	2	7	5	6	1
5	2	9	4	8	6	7	3	1
8	1	6	7	3	9	1	5	4
3	7	4	5	1	2	8	9	6

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		6	8	2	5	1		
	1						7	
8				3				2
6				4				7
5	3			8	6	2		4
1								6
3								5
	2			5			9	
		1	7	6	2	8		

Difficulty Level ★★★

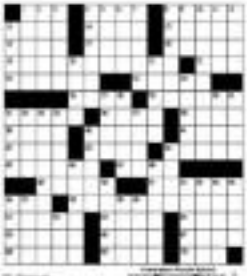
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

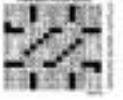
ACROSS

1. Ajaw or
5. City and province
10. Pinakbet
14. Hodgepodge
15. Bamboo
16. Bamboo house
17. Rice field dike
18. Lapses into slumber
19. Beach, Cebu-style
20. Beach, Cebu-style
21. Country, Bangladesh
22. Long period of indefinite time
23. Part of a whole
24. Ilocos
25. Ilocos
26. Ilocos
27. Cigar case
28. Ilocos
29. Ilocos
30. Ilocos
31. Ilocos
32. Ilocos
33. Ilocos
34. Ilocos
35. Ilocos
36. Ilocos
37. Ilocos
38. Ilocos
39. Ilocos
40. Ilocos
41. Ilocos
42. Ilocos
43. Ilocos
44. Ilocos
45. Ilocos
46. Ilocos
47. Ilocos
48. Ilocos
49. Ilocos
50. Ilocos
51. Ilocos
52. Ilocos
53. Ilocos
54. Ilocos
55. Ilocos
56. Ilocos
57. Ilocos
58. Ilocos
59. Ilocos
60. Ilocos
61. Ilocos
62. Ilocos
63. Ilocos
64. Ilocos
65. Ilocos
66. Ilocos
67. Ilocos
68. Ilocos
69. Ilocos
70. Ilocos
71. Ilocos
72. Ilocos
73. Ilocos
74. Ilocos
75. Ilocos
76. Ilocos
77. Ilocos
78. Ilocos
79. Ilocos
80. Ilocos
81. Ilocos
82. Ilocos
83. Ilocos
84. Ilocos
85. Ilocos
86. Ilocos
87. Ilocos
88. Ilocos
89. Ilocos
90. Ilocos
91. Ilocos
92. Ilocos
93. Ilocos
94. Ilocos
95. Ilocos
96. Ilocos
97. Ilocos
98. Ilocos
99. Ilocos
100. Ilocos

DOWN

1. Ilocos
2. Ilocos
3. Ilocos
4. Ilocos
5. Ilocos
6. Ilocos
7. Ilocos
8. Ilocos
9. Ilocos
10. Ilocos
11. Ilocos
12. Ilocos
13. Ilocos
14. Ilocos
15. Ilocos
16. Ilocos
17. Ilocos
18. Ilocos
19. Ilocos
20. Ilocos
21. Ilocos
22. Ilocos
23. Ilocos
24. Ilocos
25. Ilocos
26. Ilocos
27. Ilocos
28. Ilocos
29. Ilocos
30. Ilocos
31. Ilocos
32. Ilocos
33. Ilocos
34. Ilocos
35. Ilocos
36. Ilocos
37. Ilocos
38. Ilocos
39. Ilocos
40. Ilocos
41. Ilocos
42. Ilocos
43. Ilocos
44. Ilocos
45. Ilocos
46. Ilocos
47. Ilocos
48. Ilocos
49. Ilocos
50. Ilocos
51. Ilocos
52. Ilocos
53. Ilocos
54. Ilocos
55. Ilocos
56. Ilocos
57. Ilocos
58. Ilocos
59. Ilocos
60. Ilocos
61. Ilocos
62. Ilocos
63. Ilocos
64. Ilocos
65. Ilocos
66. Ilocos
67. Ilocos
68. Ilocos
69. Ilocos
70. Ilocos
71. Ilocos
72. Ilocos
73. Ilocos
74. Ilocos
75. Ilocos
76. Ilocos
77. Ilocos
78. Ilocos
79. Ilocos
80. Ilocos
81. Ilocos
82. Ilocos
83. Ilocos
84. Ilocos
85. Ilocos
86. Ilocos
87. Ilocos
88. Ilocos
89. Ilocos
90. Ilocos
91. Ilocos
92. Ilocos
93. Ilocos
94. Ilocos
95. Ilocos
96. Ilocos
97. Ilocos
98. Ilocos
99. Ilocos
100. Ilocos





The 12 toys of Christmas

CHARACTER Lifthead Scooter, featuring superhero design.

BEN 10 Ultimate Disc Alien Ultimatrix

TAKARA Tomy 8 Phoenix 1VSHL Spin at home race with the revamped starter set, includes keyblade, shooter and light launcher.

SPIN TECH Sonic Hip Hop Twister. Remote-controlled stunt twister with lip-synch mic and rotating turbo movement to the beat. Hurl Longevities $54. Blaster comes with barrel extension, lip-synch mic, quick-reload clip and an Olip Synchronizer.

PLAY-DOH Cake Mixin' Stardom

SMART PLAY

Tumble Tots creations prepare an engaging learning environment for exploring a theme such as the homes in my planet, animals and machines. With a wide range of opportunities and carefully chosen materials, including direct to technologies, for more activities for children to engage in the theme in a day. A group meeting each day sets the stage for educational investigation and introduction of relevant concepts. Then the children pursue a variety of activities that reinforce learning. The children's explorations can let their development of concepts related to the theme and strengthen their skills in all areas. Tumble Tots' natural and supply their concepts by experimenting with various materials. Tumble Tots is Hyde's leading preschool with over 800 centres worldwide, including those in Manila, Davao and General Santos areas. www.tumbletots.com.ph

HOT Wheels Battle Force 5 Mini Battle Accessories

BARBIE Fashionista Tulle Lead Doll. Barbie's outfit is a tribute to all her princess pieces in a party costume dress.

HIT Pops Party Van. Girls can party with their toy pops with the Pooty Van's boom box, party hats, balloons and other fun accessories.

ANIMAL Phase Dash Penguin. Comes with educational "Growing Up" DVD.

NINTENDO DS XL with full-range dual screens.

HONDA Rugg's RPM High Octane Off-Hogward... complete from vehicle to robot.

www.smdepstore.com

DEPARTMENT STORE

From Argentina to Alaska, and now, Manila . . .

From page E3

THE ZAPP family has visited more than 1,000 homes around the world. JOHN WILSON

so doesn't mean you're sick."

In Canada, the Zapps stayed with one family for three months, as their car was being repaired. At church, the townsfolk raised collections for the needed car parts. During the weekends, strangers volunteered for the repairing.

When Candelaria was about to give birth to their first child, they were traveling in North Carolina. They knocked on the doors of hospitals, but none turned them away because of lack of money. When local newspapers came out with a story about them, help suddenly poured in. Doctors offered their services, free of charge.

Beautiful people

In 2003, when they finally reached Alaska's soil, the couple hugged each other, squealing in tears-of Diego eating bottomless donuts. They jumped out of their car, running and shouting. "There they stayed hugging for almost 10 minutes," recalled Ivee, Everyone broke into applause.

To take the video camera and begin filming Candy who stares in disbelief. "Fantastic ending to their travel chronicles. As I type this, I am seeing the same 9-year-old child that I met and fell in love with, and still whom I fall in love over and over again today."

The couple has written two books about their travels, "Dream, Chase," and "Spell Your Dream," both available in different languages. In the latter's final section, they listed down 52,000 names of people who helped their girl from dampened to slender dreams.

"There are left Argentina, we were told that people are bad, that many will try to hurt us, rob us, maybe kill us," Norman says. "In the last 10 years, nothing can prevent us but words to rob me. Needless persons actually saved me so it didn't happen, 12,000 people helped us get to Alaska. Since then we've traveled to other countries and met thousands more, so do the math-now its many beautiful people."

Another significant lesson the couple discovered is asking help from other people, a trait they patently boasted to be embarrassing until they met a Chinese nurse who gave them this piece of advice: "When you need help, ask for it. Let others be part of your dream. Many people would love to help you, because it you don't ask, they would know how."

The couple put these words to good use when they needed to cross by boat from Colombia to Panama. They only had $120 left with them the shipping cost was $1,200.

"We went to that port manager and told him, we're Candelaria and Herman, we're going for our dream, can you help us?" He showed him a picture of our car and he said yes. He found out one, but three companies who wanted to help us," recalls Herman.

The 62-year-old car has been shipped from Alaska to Argentina, Argentina to the US, New Zealand to Japan, and Korea to the Philippines without the couple shelling out a single cent.

Family life

Candelaria, Herman said their four children live a simple life. They limit their outside food to the cake of their loved.

Once, in Ecuador they ran out of money. Candelaria started painting using seaweed, or-the only material they could afford...and sold it to pedestrians. That time, Ecuador was experiencing its worst financial crisis and many people were out of jobs, but the paintings sold sold out.

The family of six travel with a few things. In fact, they have fewer items now than they did when they were just a couple. "Most of it is useable for the children because we want them to feel at home. We have a DSD players toys, books and a bicycle, so they don't feel different from other kids," Candelaria shares. "Then we have two bags of clothes and sleeping bags. That's it."

On the road, Candelaria cooks the family's meals in a small metal box on the exhaust manifold located under the car's hood. "She can fine us rice on GPS, but it has an instant mom," Herman says.

The couple also bears Roman Catholic, and claims that after being more exposed to different religions, their faith has grown even stronger. "We realized the whole world is one home," Candelaria says. "Wherever we went we saw that God created all of us the same. When we talk about dreams to other people, they get it because we're all dreamers."

Candelaria teaches her kids through an online home school program from Argentina. Scooly the four children are learning from the travels alone. They saw the polar bears in Alaska and the kangaroos in Australia...cool in a zoo. They have lived inside Muslim homes, Catholic homes, poor homes, rich homes. They have witnessed firsthand how people live in the desert, in the jungle, in the ocean.

They adapt to different kinds of cultures, languages, food. They see the world through the world itself, not through television or books. They live the world.

Staying in the country

The couple says they've fallen in love with the Philippines.

"When we arrived, we saw happy faces, even the ones who are sleeping on the streets. We said, okay we're home," says Herman.

They are currently driving around provinces in southern Luzon and are planning to stay for two more months to see the rest of the country, especially the Visayas and Mindanao.

That is if no villain threatens to.

On the night the Inquirer visited the Zapps, they just came from the Bureau of Immigration. Foreigners are commonly allowed to stay in the country for two, then a month, so the family is requesting they be granted an extension.

They have visited the bureau's offline duties, each time they've been told that they need to pay an exorbitant $6,000 for the entire family to be granted visas. This, regardless of its exchequer's letter from Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim, who believes the family's stay in the Philippines would actually enable other foreigners to get to know the country better.

"For a single country they've visited has changed them for a year," says Erling, their Irish host who has lived in the country for the last 35 years. "I'm personally ashamed by them."

"For a single country they've visited has changed them for a year," says Erling, their Irish host who has lived in the country for the last 35 years. "I'm personally ashamed by them."

Going for everything

From the Philippines, the family hopes to explore the rest of Asia for the next few years. After that, their journey will end as they return to Kansas again.

"In two years, my firstborn will turn 15," Herman says. "I want us to be back home when that happens. I want us only when I turn 15. I don't want Pampo to miss the friendships he can have in our hometown. To experience joining the local soccer team, to build a new house with his friends."

Meanwhile, the couple has received letters from others from individuals interesting in buying the car from them. Are they interested?

"But it's not my car," Herman says. "It belongs to the kids. I took their mom to the hospital with that car when she was about to give birth to them. Every childhood memory they have is with that car."

"People have told me, everything has a price, so what's the price of your car? I tell them, also what's the price of your soul? That's the price of the car."

When asked about the biggest challenge they've faced so far, the couple says it was leaving for the journey on the first day, when they left behind everything they have and went for the unknown.

"When we left 10 years ago, everyone was asking us, what if the car breaks down? What if you get sick? What if you are robbed? What if you many questions," says Herman.

"People are so afraid that something might happen. To them, fear is so much more important than their dreams. Don't be afraid what something might happen. Just go ahead and do it, and it will happen."

"Did we have everything before?" Candelaria says, at which point their youngest child Wallaby walks into the room and jumps onto her mother's lap. "We didn't have any room, we were in a studio type condo. Now we have a house, we have a car, we have an apartment. Candelaria gave him crisis."

"So, we didn't have anything. In fact, we were fat on clothing. Because what can be better than having your dream? If you make your dream happen with the ones you love, what else do you need?"

Track Your Dream" by Lin Johnson and Herman Zapp is available at Amazon.com. Visit www.familyonadream.com. They welcome messages and invitations at Ivee_martinez@yahoo.com.

Going inside your teenager's mind

By Marina Benipayo
Contributor

ONE OF the most challenging phases of parenthood is when the children become teenagers. There are a lot of great kids out there, those who care about their families, their grades, their hopes, their ruin-dues, their reputation, and actively create a reasonably successful and diligent life for themselves.

However, the challenge of parenting becomes perplexing at a point. No matter suddenly how our teenagers go to extremes. For example, when we communicate with them, they're either so animated or flabbergasted and from this, or they dream like robots until the batteries running out.

We have also met many likeable people who look like aliens and sound as if Hallelujahs had just rose over their host...twice.

Our teenagers' attention span is so long as the duration of a pandesal.

They seem to be using those three first years of puberty, dance by not telling us exactly where they are going out on a saturday night, or any night and day, for that matter.

Many times, in front of their opponents, they find it's the end of their social networking on Facebook once everyone sees that lone pimple on their face.

I am sure that as a parent, you could name a few more examples of puzzling behavior.

In fathers we exist-our roles or them to an attempt to teach them a lesson or two in good

Write us your views: cfjaijai@inquirer.com.ph

manners and responsibility there are a few things about our teenagers we should know.

Emotional roller-coaster

Around the time when their first days in high school, teenagers discover a much bigger world than what they have gotten used to. Beyond the physical environment they are newly exposed to, this world includes novel viewpoints, additional information, and other issues about they can either absorb or choose from.

Choices they make could lead to good moves, which translates into joy, or bad moves, which translates into sadness, anxiety and confusion.

And since the terms stress and time management might sound like a college course to them, they tend to be the center, opposite of their decisions the term says they know and can. Thus the most pressure they feel, the more out of control and confused they become.

And at this particular time, who will they share their feelings with?

Handling risks

Teenagers seem to be more daring, too, during this time. Professional dancers between their sound to anyone under

If you're tired of lamenting how difficult it is to rear them, we can always try going down a few steps to where our teenager is

11 for the simple reason that before that age, teens will need guidance in making informed decisions and make judgment calls, especially when it comes to choosing and understanding the law or common sense.

Teenagers make the decisions they make simply because they feel good. We should like it say at the red light or speed up and try to beat it just for the thrill! When an officer flags them down, would mean, and that get angry ground and frustrated them to silence for the rest of their thrilling life!

It is important at this to remember them, they could turn the road into the Phoenix International raceway just because they don't want to look like a loser.

All these thoughts run through their head. And I still haven't gone into the topic of peer pressure, prohibited things and alcohol. Imagine how your teenagers would react

if and when they are introduced to these.

Responding to relationships

Teen love is powerful. We hardly forget our first love—whether or not it was worth forgetting. We cannot say that teenage love is insignificant. This is the teenager's initial step in developing healthy relationships.

Any parent may feel uncomfortable and shocked once his/her teenage daughter or son opens up about sweetheart or girlfriend, but there is no point going halftime or pounding their fist.

The fact that they gathered enough guts to tell you is already a sign that they are willing to listen to your opinion or advice. A new door has opened up to them. Don't push them aside and choose.

At the point, we must learn to set aside our own sad teenage love stories and listen to what they are going through. If they say they're just willing as we see know, thank them for it, and casually add that you'll always be open for discussion. We all know what happened to Romeo and Juliet. We might even learn a thing or two about it.

It is child for arguments to understand the rapid physical and mental growth we kids undergo. Remember how in those fifth year and/or third changed overnight, so that you noticed your daughter "shooting." There are just what we are.

Realize too, that they are always vigorously becoming change ridiculous leads to psychological changes affecting one's character and behavior.

This may explain a teenager's compulsiveness in making decisions, their tendency to overreact to minor issues, or from their fickle-mindedness and seeming inconsistency to their own personal feelings.

This is part of any person's development, which explains why we could easily relate to it.

We are not born monsters. And if you go through your own memories of the experiences, you know that it is not as rapid climb. Sometimes such step is so easy to take that you don't even have to look down. At times you would slowly, because you're tired, cautious or anxious.

Have a stop and you trip, fall or exert more pressure, but get those anyway. Some slip on one step longer than they should. Others just stay on one step, and never leave.

We all wish they could just sail through life problem-free, but that's not the case. Our teenagers are going through their own set of issues now. We cannot make them feel as if they are alone.

So pursue yourself now, and share your teenager in—on what steps of the staircase you are family are on. You can't make them from the climb. They can't have and see you well enough.

If you're tired of lamenting how difficult it is to rear them, we can always try going down a few steps to where our teenager is. This is your commitment.

Don't carry them up though, just stay and observe them. Avoid holding their hand too tight for they too need to figure out for themselves how to overcome obstacles in life. Despite everything, they would rather see us there with them, than somebody else. The best thing that could happen is, when they are aware of that new step and look around for help, they see you.

The author is a personal development speaker and conducts seminars for image enhancement, behavior management, employee motivation and business communication. She is also an instructor at the School of Fashion and the Arts. E-mail her at marina.benipayo@gmail.com or www.marinabenipayo.com.

LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

Christmas is the season for 'Mother'

RICKY Reyes by the grand staircase of his home PHILIP C. MAGSAYO

His trademark Christmas decor—'conservative pero malandi!'

By Anne A. Jardines

FOR CELEBRITY holidaycorator Ricky Reyes, Christmas starts Nov. 2 each year—immediately after dour All Souls' Day and skipping spooky Halloween. There is only Christmas in his household, says Reyes, who shops for his décor as early as July.

"I love decorating and I love Christmas. I don't like an interior designer. I do it myself. I'm a frustrated architect, frustrated, to be in charge. Isa-boses," he says, laughing.

Shopping as early as July gives him between 70-75 percent discount on Christmas décor.

First Lei Filter to Depiria, he owner the site for unique items and, on a good day, ends up buying up to 15 boxes (12 pcs/box) of, say, Christmas balls. If he sees something he really loves, Reyes uses to buy the entire stock from a shop so no one else can have the same furnishings.

Traditional

For Christmas 2010, Reyes opted to go traditional and went for a red-and-gold theme. Gold to animate his mood for glitz, he says, and red because it's a classic Christmas color. Oh, and the Christmas tree got taller, too—by 2 feet, dont-it.

The 24-foot Christmas tree dominates the living room, standing right across the grand staircase. The tree, reputedly made to fit the measurements of Reyes' home, is decorated with occasional all-season flowers in pink along with the traditional red poinsettias, extra-large golden balls embellished with cut-glass in red, yellow, blue, green; regular-sized red balls with glittering beads; and gold and red ribbondrops encircled from Christmases past—tiny plants in gold, small balls in boiling red hatched together.

The centerpiece of the side table, the adornments on the wall mirrors, the vase on the side tables were all conceptualized and executed by Reyes.

"I can make a Christmas garland or centerpiece to order in hour. That is so easy, especially when you already have the vision in mind."

Six to eight people help him set up his décor for four days, working from morning to 2 a.m., the next day. The Christmas tree, made of five layers of heavy-duty steel, is decorated from the top by people on stepladders who take orders from him.

Professional

But he's a perfectionist, so he admits his décor every day, breaking a leaf 'around the right, for instance, or a bunch of flowers would appear as if they're opening up to greet the sun to.

CHRISTMAS 83

CHRISTEL Dayrit Bonoan with Carmela Sto. Domingo and Tall de Pereira

MICHELLE Dayrit Soliven with close friend and client Mini Lacuna

CAKE by Pam Ebing

'Our clear and sparking mission: for every Filipino to own a piece of Miladay, no matter how small,' said Michelle Dayrit Soliven

CONTINUING the Miladay jewels legacy on its 45th year—Jacqui Dayrit Bonoan, Michelle D. Soliven, Mark Dayrit, Christine Dayrit and Yvonne D. Hernandez

Grand family bash marks Miladay's 45th anniversary

ONE OF THE country's iconic jewelry boutiques, the renowned Miladay Jewels, celebrated its 45th anniversary at the Filipinas Ballroom of The Peninsula Manila, dabitlings, with the launch of its newest collection.

Over a thousand invitees came to ball bling, bling from to support the gorgeous and brilliant Dayrit siblings, who were out this time not just dressed by their parents literally at the family garage.

"We have kept our promise to our beloved patriotic Mike and Ting Dayrit to never cost Filipino's dear and sparking mission: for every Filipino to own a piece of Miladay, no matter how small," said a teary eyed Michelle Dayrit Soliven, company president.

The highlight was the 45-minute jewelry fashion show, with movie heroines from Hollywood to Bollywood, participated in by Miladay's esteemed clients and family patronages.

As my five godmoggers—Angel Bonoan, Michelle Soliven, Mindi Dayrit, Christine Dayrit and Yvonne D. Hernandez-Dayrit—surveyed down the runway to the tune of "Diamonds Are Forever," the crowd gave them solid applause. The third generation—Chantal Dayrit Bonoan, Alexandra and Samantha Dayrit and Maurice Soliven—prompted up the ramp with their energetic exuberance.

In the rehearsing around were Mark's wife Melayne with all their children, tweens were touched by the obvious love and camaraderie among the Dayrit brood.

"Thank you very much for celebrating this sparkling moment with us, our 45th anniversary," said Michelle. "You are Miladay's customers. Thank you for your unwavering trust, with which we are able to continue the Miladay legacy."

Michelle announced that part of the jewelry fan's proceeds would go to the relaunch of more than 200 students of Divine Healer Academy in Cubid an, Sorsogon.

Drool over the Miladay shops on Jupiter Street, Bel-Air, and branches at Alabang Town Center, SM Mall of Asia, Tagaytay The Block, TriNoma, The Podium, and Glorietta. Call 8910948 or 8988234, visit www.miladayjewels.com.

Woman Entrepreneur of the Year

Esther A. Vilasi, president of Vilasi Pearls, lighting design inc. (VPIEL), was recently named "Retail & Young Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Philippines 2010" at a grand awards night at Makati Shangri-La Hotel, dabitlings.

Esther Vilasi led her company to the top in the exuberant educational publishing market with an awesome 61 million textbooks printed by her house, which accounts for over 50 percent of distributed books in some 18 initial Filipino children in public elementary and secondary schools, pabitlings.

And now VPIEL is developing and producing digital learning tools. It's the first Philippine educational publisher to produce textbooks accompanied with CD-ROMs and on-line site.

MOV's program, the latest R. Young Entrepreneur of the Year Philippines, recognizes the high-impact achievements of Filipino entrepreneurs. And Esther Vilasi is truly a well-deserved recipient of the honor. She is a woman totally dedicated to the cause of children's education, pabitlings.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arambulo

Photos by Alex Van Hagen

grooved by MIKEE MANC SANTOS

Bea Valdes' 'Burden of Silk'

It was totally the event of the week when stylish and gorgeous Bea Valdes, whose bags and jewelry regularly make it to the covers of international fashion magazines such as Vogue and Harper's Bazaar and even across scrolls like Time and Financial Times, unveiled "The Burden of Silk," a special collection she made for Firma.

HAMBUGJ Lauren, Rep. Susan Yap-Sulit, Michelle D. Soliven, Jaja Ocampo, Dia Regala, Dr. Carmela Oreglidor-Isabelo, (front, r-l) Lisa Lutzman, Anda Ayers, Sandy Lunn, Cecilia Soares and Tina Borrelo

CECILE and Randy Lanjaco

RAMPLE printmaker Erlinda Ocampo

ESTHER A. Vilasi receives the R&Y award from Fe Barin, chair of Securities and Exchange Commission

BANKER Andrew Gan, gala co-chair Marivic C. Zobel and Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, OB Rector Magnificus of UST

ESTHER A. Vilasi of Vilasi Publishing House is named Entrepreneur of the Philippines 2010. With her are Bebe Gaw of SGV and wife Fe, daughter Mitz Vilasi-Mejia, VPIEL vice president; son Gus, executive director of Vilasi Foundation; and close pals Nenia and Bert Basilio

Angela Lauren and daughter Melissa grabbed the beaded neckpieces with silver medallions and fine metallic fringes. Re-designers said the fly-adorned the "surface-to-surface" of bags with knotted and braided fringes and tassels.

"Most that had long fringes, some in silk and some in metal, got the fashion pack. Almost, with fashion writers already heard, carving their enthusiasm on Twitter while at the tassels.

Anna Gonzales couldn't get her eyes off a coat of looped ribbonettes in delicious variety, while Madeleine Espeglaera was enamored with a black version. Irene Prieto's dabbies liked the gray and evening-ish one in a chalkboard length. Sadie Tee Gan and daughter Jessica were happy to have arrived a bit later, when the crowd had thinned down—"The better to appreciate all the wonderful creations," said Lala.

Carmen Benjamin, co-founder of Conchalo and Net a porter, the world's leading luxury fashion retail magazine online, had said of her: "What she has been able to successfully accomplish are bespoke items that have firmly placed her in a category all her own...luxury fashion accessories. Customers want to buy something which is not expendable because of the label, but which it easily becomes of the time taken to produce it," Angela said.

"The Burden of Silk" is available exclusively at Firma, G/F Greenbelt 5. Call 7574000 for 7574015, or e-mail firma@mozio.com.

UST Christmas Concert gala

This year's UST Christmas Concert Gala happens tomorrow, Dec 2. It will start off with the Christmas Concert at the UST Chapel, followed by cocktails and dinning at the Seminary Hall and Gardens.

The co-chairs, Marivic Zobel and Fr. Bobby Silvano, told me this year's concert, as always, would be something to look forward to, though they've kept the show quite compact. Take note, dabitlings, this gala is entirely by invitation; everyone who is anyone should have received their invite by now.

Me? until now, as the organizers said it'll be like a gala held at The Met in New York, dabitlings!

JEWELRY and bag designer Bea Valdes with sister Margo Valdes

FIRMA's Ricky Tesoro with Carla B. Tengco and Penny A. Perez

FESTIVAL MATE Ricy Dennison's Bambi Ng Gokongwei, Penny's Claire Ylanan, HSBC Premier's Marsha Bautista and Elgi Chua Cambe, and HSBC's Jenny Pamintuan and Iris Cruz

ISABEL Cain Wilson, Pamela Valdes and Bridina Chomba

SWAROVSKI executives from Hong Kong and Singapore Gordon Lee, Tammy Wai and Eddie Yi

TRINIDAD and Christian Gonzalez

RED beaded clutch

JOSEPHINE de Guzman, Stephanie Kinsle, Zelda Rivera and Ilaria Bussoli

CHIC, Bangkok, Hotel Fair, Bea Valdes, Chris Lapkamon, Marissa Cojuangco and Le Lapkamon

HSBC's Johanna Garcia, Sabrina Perello, Francis Jaimes and Glory de Guzman

"ICARUS" beaded bag with feathers

REYES buys boxes and boxes of extra large Christmas balls to match his huge Christmas tree.

THE TRICK is to layer it together: smaller-sized balls as they'd stand out in the decor.

REYES: "I like arranging and putting together items that are old and even. Long necklaces in gold make their way into my creations."

DECORATING a tree takes him less than 30 minutes.

Christmas is the season for 'Mother'

From page F1

"I don't want my décor to look stagnant. There has to be movement in everything. The centerpiece doesn't have to be at the center of a coffee table. You can put it in one side, with leaves flowing to the floor. Decorating is left-and-arts. I decorate according to the size of the room, to the mood of a room. Have movement; my décor has to have a cascading movement. Guests let me[illegible] this life—conservative post-modern," he says, giggling.

For the grand staircase, Reyes decorates from the first step and works his way up to second floor. Drapes in reds (silver and gold decorate the banks, from the crystals all the way to the windows by the staircase.

The dining room, with the original work in all white steel lined with gold leaf, looks even glitzier with red-and-gold drapes cascading to the floor. The long table is also lavishly decorated in red and gold, with splashes of green in pine leaves. Gold Christmas balls encased on their wooden stands are lined across the table.

"I'm not even New to the rich people of Manila, my wealth is nothing. But I know how to live a life. I enjoy life, I give the best family atmosphere to my family. I drop on a nice luncheon bed. I cannot that. I decided on itself to have a better life. I want to enjoy the fruits of my labor while I can still alive," says Reyes.

Every day, in fact, is like Christmas for Reyes. He says there has never been a day in his life when he went home empty-handed. He always buys gifts for his family every single day.

This year could be Reyes' last Christmas in his 9000 square feet mansion. A restless artist, he says he only stays for a maximum of 10 years in a house. He has been in this address for nine years. The house is now in the market, he says. By next Christmas he might be in a new home.

"I grew up with my family being kicked out of the apartment almost every three months because my mother couldn't pay rent. So I made sure that when I became successful, I would have the beautiful homes she could live in every 10 years or less."

For now, however, Reyes' playhouse is his home...an embodiment of personality as he indulges his every whim.

"It's nice to live in beautiful home that's well fixed and decorated because it starts your day right. If your home is a mess your day will be a mess. It's really about manning what you have. And you have to keep on dreaming of a better life and a better home," he said.

LONG dining table adorned with red and gold Christmas balls.

"MOTHER" Nicky Reyes on shopping for Christmas: "Every woman loves to shop. I am part woman, so naturally I love to shop."

TRIMMINGS include necklaces in gold, recycled leaves fly decor in red and pink, all-season flowers, red-and-gold Christmas balls, pine leaves.

PAINTING of Reyes' mom is adorned with all-season pink flowers.

"DECOR must have movement, gracefully flowing to the floor."

EASY-DIY Red roses, red carnations, red ribbons, some greens and orange chairs in containers you can spread around the house.

Holiday arrangement using pine cones

Do-it-yourself

D.I.Y.

With Renan Barrientos and Marlena Lopez

AS CHRISTMAS approaches, we often find ourselves attending many a gathering. With the Christmas rush traffic, entertaining at home might be a better option.

Here is an easy and festive idea to bring holiday color to your table.

Since red is the color of the season, gather red roses, red carnations, red cohosh, some greens and arrange them in containers that you can spread around your home. Group the flowers in bunches according to variety for more impact. Insert pinecones and berries in between the groupings of flowers. All you have to do is wrap floral wire around the base of the pinecones, secure around a berry stick, cut to desired length and insert into the arrangement. What would be a normal arrangement of red flowers is immediately transformed into a Christmas centerpiece.

You may even add some Christmas balls or small ornaments if arranging in a bigger container.

ADD CHRISTMAS balls or small ornaments to jazz up the arrangement.

Two soon-to-wed couples and their smile-y first encounters

SOON-TO-BE-WED COUPLES Ian Bing and Joey Mead and Marco Rodriguez and Rosanna Ocampo shared their stories one recent night in an intimate cocktail lounge at The Manila Peninsula Rigodon Ballroom.

Invited family and friends received exclusively designed blue and white invitations to the event. The romantic all-white setting was designed by Robert Almendral.

Guests were entertained by two of the couples closest friends and matchmakers, Tim Yap and Jil Rodriguez, who disclosed they were the ones who set the couples up.

Joey met Ian during a party, which Ian aided Tim to introduce him to a smiling Joey. Their first banter-and-arcade date would eventually lead to their engagement party.

"The future is boundless," said Ian.

"We see each other together for eternity" said Joey.

Rosanna and Marco, meanwhile, met through Jil two years ago. Like Ian, Marco said he treasures's dazzling smile caught his attention.

Today "I look forward to a new chapter with her," said Marco.

"I don't see myself with anyone else," added Rosanna.

Joey and Rosanna were white gowns made by Raja Laurel. Joey's makeup was by Jing Monis' Propaganda team and Ian, Eccarius, while Rosanna's was by Omar Ismail. The men wore cocktail suits by Joey Samson.

Tim and Jil officiated an unusual ceremony complete with vows between the couple, and special instructions: "Wash that Close-Up White Now smile... You may kiss your soon-to-be bride!"

DJ Marc Hilmoda provided the music for the night, with a nonstop mash-up of hits from '80s, '90s and '00s. Wine, cocktails and food was provided by The Manila Peninsula.

The two couples said all it took for their fateful encounters to happen were smiles they gave each other. Cue Close-Up White, which instantly whitens teeth after just one brush. It's 100 percent safe and effective with an innovative and breakthrough blue foam technology that creates an instant visible effect on teeth.

Close-Up White Now guarantees instant whitening effect without the chemicals used by whitening kits and other whitening toothpastes. The result is a dazzling smile. Like those sported by Ian and Joey, and Marco and Rosanna.

IAN BING and Joey Mead

MARCO Rodriguez and Rosanna Ocampo

ADAMANA'S smile instantly captivated Marco.

LINK/EVER Marketing Manager for Oral and Deodorant Category Cindy Melconton; Unilever PR and Events Manager Nikki Abella; Close-Up Assistant Brand Manager Julia Ng; and Close-Up Brand Manager Brian Dorsin

TIM YAP and JM Rodriguez officiated an unusual ceremony, complete with vows.

CLOSE-UP Brand Manager Brian Dorsin and Assistant Brand Manager Julia Ng; Unilever Marketing Manager for Oral and Deodorant Category Cindy Melcontion and PR and Events Manager Nikki Abella; and Rosanna Ocampo, Miller Ocampo and Marco Rodriguez

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bonnie S. Velarde
Mobile text [illegible] | Website [illegible] | E-mail [illegible]
Send your feedback [illegible]

Little Angels of Korea in Manila

THE WORLD RENOWNED Little Angels Children's Folk Ballet of Korea performs at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Dec. 14 to dance veterans of the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea. The troupe is on a 30-global-tour that kicked off with a performance at the Kennedy Center Opera House in Washington, DC last June.

SHOW TIME

Celeb forum: Is social networking a boon or bane? / Page G2

Social networking or celebrity stalking?

MY LIFE is an open Facebook. My friends and kids always reason out that FB should give me an award for having the most albums online (201 albums and still counting!).

Social networking has truly changed our way of life. It has made celebs more accessible to their fans. But it has also made them an easy prey for stalkers and imposters. With its good and bad effects combined, is social networking a boon or bane?

While you're at it, don't judge a Jane Bank by its cover or fall for Tweet mishaps on Twitter. Nothing beats the warmth of face-to-face encounters and sweet reunions.

KIM ATIENZA: "Some followers can be endearing of stories I make. I am not perfect but people expect me to be. Otherwise, Twitter has helped my trivia and encyclopedic skills, especially after my earjury. It also connects me psychically—via my foresights (thoughts I could have tweeted)—with my thousands of followers. My challenge is how to reply tactfully to negative questions that occasionally come my way."

CRISTINE REMIGIA-RAMOS: "During days when I get carried away, I spend like eight hours uploading pics on Facebook. And before I know it, syempre na, I'm cheap at all! Which is detrimental to my health."

MIRIAM QUIAMBAO: "I am fortunate to be reaping the benefits of social networking. If there should be negative consequences, it would have to be that more people know about my activities than I would prefer. I also get weird messages on my Twitter account sometimes."

KIM PAT: "Social networking is definitely a part of my life now. Whether I'm at my parent's, it makes my day improving. I look at it as a very positive addition to my daily activities. But what makes it negative? When I see negative comments and negative people. Sometimes we can't help but get affected. What we just have to do is push the delete button. We also can unfriend this person!"

ARA MINA: "Usually social networking is a cause of fights between couples because of jealousy and suspicions. Not between friends. At naturellement ka sa mga taong pinagkakatiwalaan mo."

DREW ARELLANO: "I allow times make to divulge too much info to our own good."

CRYSTAL MUÑOZ: "Ying mga taong walang magawa sa buhay pwede lang i-attach through Twitter by saying bad things or makakasakit sa damdamin mo."

Magic doll

Christine gets inviter as GMA 7 presents its holiday prime-time treat, "Jillian: Namamalas Ito!" (after "Survivor Celebrity Edition" sa GMA Telebabad). Top-billed by child wonder **Jillian Ward**, it features **Michael V.** who wears many hats from comedy and dolls to a special drama appearance as Santa Claus. It also stars **Wow**

KIM NICOLE: "Twitter has helped my trivia and encyclopedic skills."

dell Samson as the dad of a sick child and **Claudine Barretto** as a cheerful mom and wife who believes in the magic of Christmas and Santa.

The "Christmasserye" tells the delightful story of Jillian, the magical doll and assistant of Santa who accidentally falls into the hands of a rich young girl, Dolly (**Daniela Stanfield**). She discovers that Jillian can dance, talk, sing and do a lot of things. Jillian wishes to become human. Soon, her fantasy reveals that the only way her wish can be granted is to learn all human values. In a Christmas miracle, will Jillian's wish come true? Or will she remain a doll forever?

E-mail: wazzzup@inquirer.com.ph

OPENING TODAY

RUSSELL Crowe in "The Next Three Days"

HFV (Si Heidi, Si Ivy at Si V)
Directed by Neal Tan, stars John Lorenna, Ina Gelorale, Precious Lara Quigaman, Maria Isabel Lopez, V. Mendoza. Jun Sta. Ana, Candy Pangilinan

Documentary (Comic) makes a film on the lives of three GRP janitors (Yolanda, Jessa, Mendoza) who change for life, inspired by salesman Pongpo Gallaga, the digital was made with the cooperation of the Department of Health.

Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader
Directed by Michael Apted; story: Ben Barnes, Shanelle Beynon, Georgie Henley, Eddie Izzard, Will Poulter, Tony Tarwel, Bill Night, Tilda Swinton

The Pevensie kids (Henley, Henley) return to Narnia and join forces with Ring Caspian (Barnes) on a grand adventure. Opens Friday in 3D cinemas.

BEN Barnes in "Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader"

Secretariat
Directed by Randall Wallace; stars Diane Lane, John Malkovich, Margo Martindale, Michelle, Nelson Ellis, Dylan Pitsch, Margo Martindale

Meanwhile (Lane) inherits stable of horses from her old father and, in spite of her inexperience, manages to train the first triple-crown champion in 25 years.

The Next Three Days
Directed by Paul Haggis; stars Elizabeth Banks, Liam Neeson, Olivia Wilde, Jason Beghe

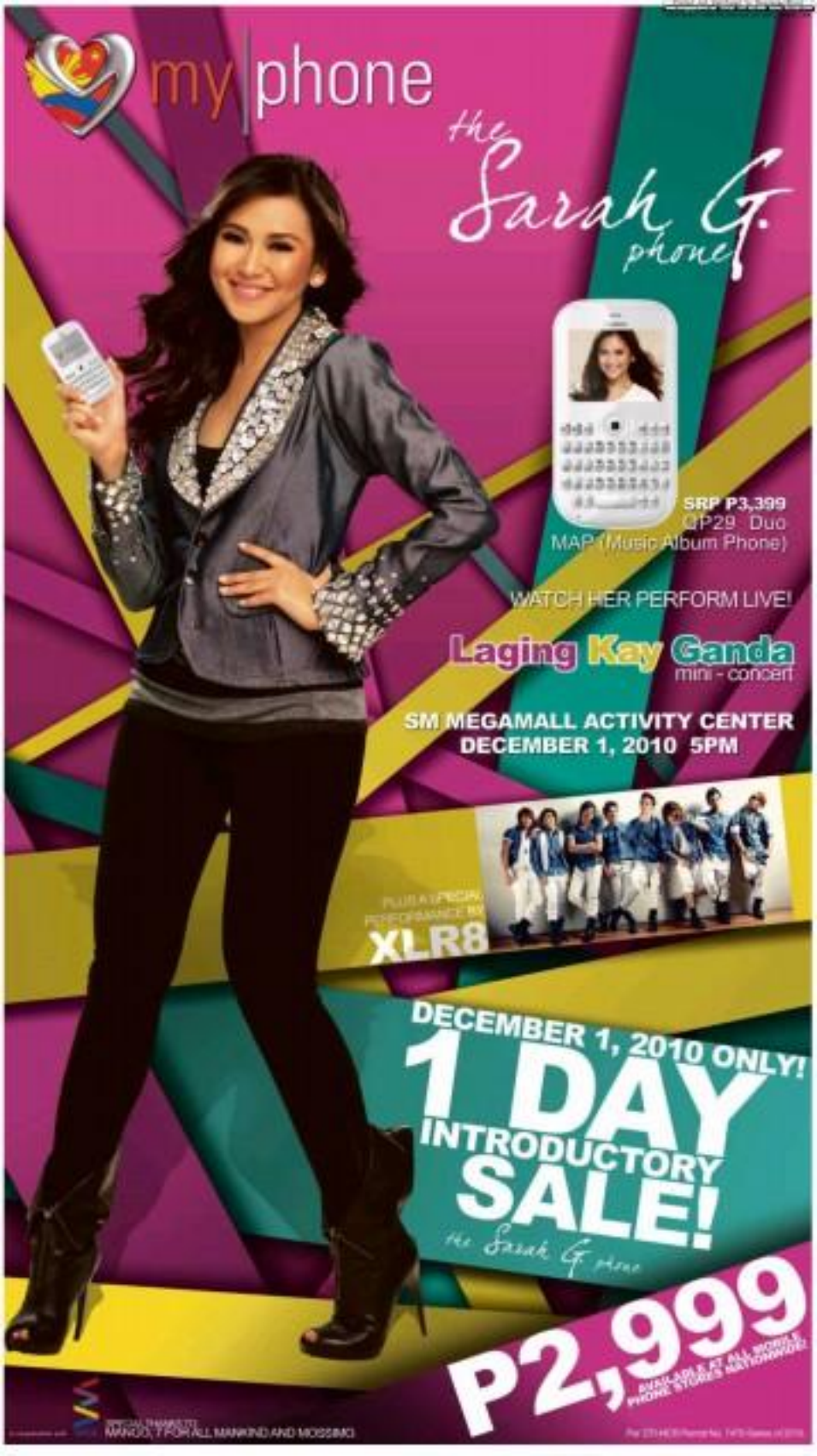
Husband (Crowe) helps wife (Banks), who's accused of murder, to escape from prison.

Monsters
Directed by Gareth Edwards; stars Scoot McNairy, Whitney Able, Kevin Kane

Journalist (McNairy) helps scared tourist (Able) cross the border from Mexico, which is quarantined because of deadly alien creatures.

need a job?

SM CINEMA
visit: www.smcinema.com
PROMO!
BOX OFFICE WHEELS
Watch any movie at SM CINEMA and Feel the rush of having your own Nissan Sentra 1.6L or Nissan Grand Livina!
WATCH, TEXT and WIN!
Text SM_CM
SM_WHEELS <transaction code>
*send all keywords to 2600
Available to all Globe / Smart / Sun cellular subscribers
IMAX
metro manila
luzon
visayas • mindanao
HOTLINE: 470.22.22 / WEBSITE: www.smcinema.com
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED.
OFFERS A WIDE VARIETY OF FOOD AND DRINKS AT ALL SM CINEMA LOBBIES


my|phone
the Sarah G. phone
SRP P3,399
CP29 Duo
MAP (Music Album Phone)
WATCH HER PERFORM LIVE!
Laging Kay Ganda
mini - concert
SM MEGAMALL ACTIVITY CENTER
DECEMBER 1, 2010 5PM
PLUS A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY
XLR8
DECEMBER 1, 2010 ONLY!
1 DAY
INTRODUCTORY
SALE!
the Sarah G. Phone
P2,999
AVAILABLE AT ALL MOBILE PHONE STORES NATIONWIDE!
SPECIAL THANKS TO
MANGO, T FOR ALL MANKIND AND MOSSIMO